

BULLETIN OF THE
GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH
HISTORIC SETTLEMENT

No. 2. December 1971.

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Bulletin of the Group for the Study of
Irish Historic Settlement

No. 2

1971

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GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH HISTORIC SETTLEMENT

(founded 1969)

Aims

- i to produce and circulate useful information concerning Irish historic settlement
- ii to promote and co-ordinate studies of particular aspects of settlement
- iii to express opinions on matters of historic settlement which are of national and local concern, and, where necessary, to press for action.

Information

The formation of the Group stems from the belief that the study of settlement is inter-disciplinary and that there is a great need for a group to act as a focus for everyone with interests in this field, including economic and social historians, archaeologists, geographers, architects, surveyors, planners, school teachers, students, and all others who, as active members of local societies, have an interest in the subject. The name of the Group is left deliberately wide so that all shades of interest, rural and urban, may be included.

The programme of the Group includes the production and circulation of an annual Bulletin, an annual weekend conference (to focus attention on a particular theme and area), and the planning of projects, especially the listing and recording of sites, to which individual members of the Group and of local societies may contribute.

Membership

Membership (annual subscription 50p) is open to all who are prepared to support the aims of the Group. Enquiries should be sent to the Hon. Secretary who will be pleased to send further information.

Members receive all publications of the Group, and the annual report on Excavations produced by the Association of Young Irish Archaeologists.

NOTES

G.S.I.H.S.: Officers and Committee, 1971-2

President	: L. de Paor
Hon. Vice-President	: E. Estyn Evans
Hon. Secretary	: R. E. Glasscock
Hon. Treasurer	: B. J. Graham
Committee	: Miss M. Dunlevy (Dublin)
	N. W. English (Athlone)
	Miss E. Prendergast (Dublin)
	W. Roche (Mallow)
	E. Rynne (Athenry)
	D. R. M. Weatherup (Armagh)

Current membership : 204

Communications

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, R. E. Glasscock at Department of Geography, Queen's University Belfast, with the exception of subscriptions which should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr B. J. Graham at the School of Biological and Earth Sciences, Ulster College, Jordanstown, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim.

Publications

G.S.I.H.S. Bulletin, No. 1 (1970) available from the Hon. Secretary at 30p, post free.

Articles in Current Periodicals, I (April 1970) at 20p post free.

Editorial note

The Hon. Secretary apologies for the very late production of this, the second Bulletin of the Group. It is hoped to catch up with publication by producing No. 3 (1972) within a short time.

Bulletin, No. 1 (1970) included reports of excavations carried out in Ireland in 1970. At the same time a similar report was prepared by the Association of Young Irish Archaeologists. In order to avoid this duplication it was agreed in 1971 that the A.Y.I.A. should continue to provide this valuable service and that copies of their annual publication on Excavations would be purchased by the Group and supplied to members. Accordingly a copy of Excavations 1971 is included with this Bulletin.

Through the Bulletin the Group wishes to bring to the attention of members recent publications which should be of interest. This is especially so of local publications which receive less attention through publishers and the press. If you wish us to draw attention to new publications please send information about them to the Hon. Secretary.

Annual meeting, 1971

The annual meeting, 1971, was held at the Club House hotel, Kilkenny, April 30 - May 2, with the host society being the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. The subject of the meeting was "The medieval town in Ireland" and papers were read by Professor A. J. Otway-Ruthven ("The medieval town in Ireland: an introduction"), Mr Liam de Paor ("Pre-Norman towns?"), and Mr Etienne Rynne ("Medieval Athenry").

The thanks of the Group are due to the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, who entertained members of the Group at the Society's headquarters, Rothe House, and who led local excursions within Kilkenny and the surrounding area.

List of archaeological and historical societies and field clubs

A preliminary list of societies is included in this issue. There are, no doubt, many omissions and for some local societies we have not the name of the Hon. Secretary. As we wish to keep this list under continuous revision for periodic publication please send in additions and amendments to the Hon. Secretary.

Co. Roscommon Archaeological Survey

Since its inception the Roscommon County Development team has taken a keen interest in the archaeological aspects of the county as related to economic developments. Following four years of sustained pressure on various bodies the team

was allocated in 1970 a small discretionary grant from the National Monuments Branch of the Office of Public Works to employ an archaeological graduate on a temporary basis to assist in the listing of archaeological sites in the county. As a result Miss Ann Gannon was appointed and began a survey of the county. Her initial work was seen to be of great value and in order that the survey be continued and completed further more substantial grants were forthcoming from the government Central Development Committee.

The Roscommon team (Chairman, Mr S. O'Giollain) are to be congratulated on their initiative in this matter and it is to be hoped that other counties will follow their lead. This was a case where local interest and sustained pressure eventually led to the availability of both financial aid and expertise.

An Foras Forbartha (The National Institute of Physical Planning): appointment of an archaeologist

Another welcome development of 1971 was the appointment to the Conservation Advisory Service for Local Authorities (set up by An Foras Forbartha) of an archaeologist, a post to which Mr Richard Haworth was appointed. His main task is to revise the sections relating to Field Monuments in the county development plans due for their first statutory five-yearly revision in 1972.

Mr Haworth sees part of his job in these terms . . . "to supply the county planning officers with information on field monuments in their areas, with a view to improving the chances of survival of monuments which might otherwise be damaged or destroyed in the course of development and also to advise on what monuments are of particular importance, or which are most suitable for, or in need of, conservation and attention".

Members are invited to correspond directly with Mr Haworth over such matters. (address, An Foras Forbartha, St Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4)

Grant

The Group acknowledges with thanks a grant of £30 towards publication from the Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast.

BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS 1970-1

An important publication of 1970 was Peter Harbison's Guide to the National Monuments in the Republic of Ireland. This replaces, in an expanded and more attractive form, the earlier guide The National Monuments of Ireland published by Bord Failte in 1964. Well illustrated, with a general introduction and sensible practical guidance about how to actually reach the monuments, this book has been generally welcomed. The latest edition of the Shell Guide to Ireland is still the best comprehensive guide to the thousands of antiquities not in state care.

For ancient monuments in the north the best brief guides are the two booklets published by H.M.S.O., Ancient Monuments in Northern Ireland, Vol. 1, in State Charge, (5th edition, 1966) and Vol. 11, not in State Charge (3rd edition, 1969).

In 1971 the New History of Ireland project under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy produced the first of their ancillary publications, Medieval Ireland, c. 1170-1495: a bibliography of secondary works, by P. W. A. Asplin. This is a most useful publication listing over 700 items with brief notes on the content of each entry. Price £1.00 from the Academy or through booksellers.

The Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast, continued to promote a publication programme with five books of general interest:-

A Fenton and A. Gailey, eds., The spade in northern and Atlantic Europe: a symposium, (with the Ulster Folk Museum, 1970, £1.65).

Eileen McCracken, The Irish woods since Tudor times: their distribution and exploitation, (David and Charles, 1971, £2.25).

Mary McNeill, The life of Vere Foster: Victorian benefactor, (David and Charles, 1971, £2.75).

H. Wagner, Studies in the origins of the Celts and of early Celtic civilisation, (Max Niemayer, Tübingen, 1971, £2.10).

Lord George Hill, Facts from Gweedore, a facsimile reprint of the fifth edition (1887) with an introduction by E. Estyn Evans. (This is the first of the Institute's reprint series and is of exceptional interest for the pre-Famine period). 1971. £1.00.

Another important book of 1970 was Medieval Religious Houses, Ireland (Longmans, £8.00), a volume that completes the survey of the medieval religious houses of the British Isles begun by David Knowles in 1940. This volume is a tremendous achievement of the combined scholarship of Professor the Rev. Aubrey Gwynn, S.J. and Mr R. N. Hadcock, and it will be a standard work for years to come - so try not to let the price keep it off your shelves!

Thames and Hudson are, on the other hand, producing some very attractive and cheaper paper-back books in their Library of Medieval Civilisation series. Volumes of Irish interest include David Wilson, The Vikings and their origins, (1970), and Charles Thomas, Britain and Ireland in Early Christian times, A.D. 400-800, (1971) (subject of a review article in this Bulletin).

Two other paper-back volumes of importance are R. A. Stalley, Architecture and Sculpture in Ireland, 1150-1350, (Gill and Macmillan, 1971, £1.75) (a nicely illustrated introduction to Irish medieval architecture and sculpture arising from a Rosc exhibition), and Donald Moore, ed., The Irish Sea Province in Archaeology and History (Cambrian Archaeological Association, Cardiff, 1970, 90p) (a book of 125 pages containing 11 papers on this theme given at a conference at Aberystwyth in 1968).

In 1970-1 geographers produced two volumes in honour of E. Estyn Evans. Irish Geographical Studies, (1970) edited by N. Stephens and R. E. Glasscock, (available from Department of Geography, Queen's University Belfast, £4.75) contains 23 studies on various aspects of the physical and cultural landscape. Man and his habitat, edited by R. H. Buchanan, Emrys Jones and Desmond McCourt (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1971, £3.50) contains 13 studies in various fields associated with life-long interests of Estyn Evans. For Ireland the two contributions of greatest importance are M. L. Henry's bibliography of the writings of Estyn Evans, 1927-1969, and Desmond McCourt's chapter on "The dynamic quality of Irish rural settlement".

In the field of local publications the Cork Historical Guides Committee (18 Dyke Road, Cork) continued its attractively-produced series of booklets with A history of Mallow, (1971), by Evelyn Bolster. For those who do not know this series the Committee have previously produced The history of Youghal, by H. Wain (1965); A short history of Kinsale, by M. Mulcahy (1966; revised edn. 1968); History of Crosshaven, D. O. Murchadha (1967); Haulbowline, Spike and Rocky Islands, by Niall Brunnicardi (1968); History of Bandon, by D. J. O'Donoghue (1970). This series is very nicely produced and might inspire other local societies to promote similar booklets for their areas.

Members may be interested in a new journal, The Irish Ancestor. Unconnected with any Society this journal has been issued twice yearly since 1969; it is printed on art paper and extensively illustrated. Its main interests are genealogy and social history in Ireland from the seventeenth century and it covers a wide field having already published material relating to wills, administrations and marriage licence bonds, household inventories, monumental inscriptions, lineages and parish registers. Annual subscription (for two issues) £2.10. Obtainable from the editor, Miss Rosemary ffolliott, Pirton House, Sydenham Villas, Dundrum, Dublin 14. New material for publication welcomed.

R.E.G.

Articles in Current Periodicals, II (March 1972)

Compiled by B.J. Graham and Gillian F. Barrett

and covering

Irish Historical Studies, Vol. XVII, Nos. 65 and 66. (1970)
and 67 (1971).

Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland,
Vol. 100 (1970), parts 1 and 2, and Vol.
101 (1971), part 1.

Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, (Section C), Vol. 69,
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Irish Booklore, Vol. 1 (1971), Nos. 1 and 2.

The Irish Ancestor, Vol. 2 (1970), Nos. 1 and 2.

LOCAL JOURNALS

Journal of the Old Athlone Society, Vol. 1, No.2 (1970-71).

Breifne, Vol. III, No. 12. (1969).

Clogher Record, Vol. VII, No. 2. (1970).

Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society,
Vol. LXXV, No. 221 (Jan-June, 1970).

Review of the Craigavon Historical Society, Vol. 1, No. 2.
(1971).

Donegal Annual, Vol. 9. (1970), No. 2.

Dublin Historical Record, Vol. XXIII (1969), Nos. 2 and 3.

Journal of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society,
No. 3 (1970) and No. 4 (1971).

Journal of the Co. Kildare Archaeological Society, XIV, No. 5.
(1970).

Old Kilkenny Review, No. 23 (1971).

County Louth Archaeological Journal, Vol. XVII (1969), No. 1.

North Munster Antiquarian Journal, Vol. XII (1969).

Riocht na Midhe, Vol. IV, No. 4 (1970).

Ulster Journal of Archaeology, Vol. 33 (1970).

Journal of the Old Wexford Society, No. 3 (1970-1).

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IRELAND AND BRITAIN A.D. 400-800

by Ann Hamlin (University of Exeter)

Charles Thomas, Britain and Ireland in Early Christian Times A.D. 400-800 Thames and Hudson 1971. 144pp. 110 illus. £1.75 (paper 90p)

Archaeologists tend to be wary of writing works of synthesis. For the post-Roman period generally we are still very much in a 'data-collecting' stage, and there are real difficulties in stating general conclusions with confidence, not hedged about by too many qualifications. There is the problem, too, of how quickly conclusions based on archaeological material can filter through to general historical textbooks. The archaeologist's conclusions are hypotheses based on the available material. They may not be the only possible conclusions, and they are certainly open to modification or outright disproof with the finding of new evidence. The archaeologist is limited in the inferences he can safely draw from his material. He will always find it more difficult to answer broad historical questions than to reveal details of housing, defence, economy and technology.

It is brave of Professor Thomas to attempt a synthesis. We already have books dealing with particular areas: from the same publisher there is Early Christian Ireland by Maire and Liam de Paor (which wears wonderfully well), The Picts by Isabel Henderson, Celtic Britain by Nora Chadwick, and The Anglo-Saxons by David Wilson. The new book performs a useful service in attempting to link these areas and underlining the need for students of any one area to have a good knowledge of the others.¹ It is, however, uneven both in style and coverage. The material on western Britain is fullest; Ireland is sadly under-represented; the treatment of the Anglo-Saxon areas should be supplemented by David Wilson's The Anglo-Saxons (second edition 1971 in Pelican). Professor Thomas is the first to admit that his is a brief account, 'a personal view, a most imperfect and compressed one', and this book is certainly very short (of 144 numbered pages only about 85 are text), but it is sumptuously provided with illustrations. This is a very useful collection of photographs, plans and maps, but certain infelicities could have been smoothed out by more sensitive planning. The layout of pages 20-21 is messy; the juxtaposition of figs. 17-8 and 19 is strange; figs. 24 and 25 exhibit several oddities when looked at in detail. Fig. 7 does, of course, show the exterior of Portchester water-gate.

It is useful to have this attempt at a broad sweep over a wide canvas. But it must be emphasized that this has been done in such a short compass only by playing down doubts and controversies and stressing conclusions rather than evidence. This approach is ideal for a general readership, but serious readers must delve far more deeply into evidence, problems and controversies, and test all conclusions

rigorously. If this is seen as a text-book (and the reasonable price suggests that it is), the bibliography should be much fuller, including articles as well as books. It may be that archaeologists are sometimes too preoccupied with minutiae (see p.8 and p.11), but it will only be through careful, detailed work on typology, technology and distribution that we shall be able to remove the question-marks from the arrows in fig. 1 (or remove the arrows), and achieve a more firmly based archaeological chronology for these four centuries.

Chapter One, 'The End of Roman Britain', concentrates on Britain. Ireland figures very little except in a brief discussion of the linguistic complexities of the period. The treatment of Arthur and the Picts in Chapter Two, 'Invaders and Colonists', is full, of other matters rather less full. One interesting problem, not mentioned, is the origins of the Irish Picts, the Cruithni, who appear in the Annals of Ulster from the fifth to the eighth century in South Antrim but who gave their name to Duncrun in County Derry. When he turns to Ireland, Professor Thomas suggests 'it is by no means improbable that, during the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., the sum total of Irish settlers and their families in western Britain equalled or even exceeded the various Germanic tribes on Britain's eastern and southern shores'. This is certainly a thought-provoking suggestion, but it is difficult to measure Irish settlement in quantitative terms. We have nothing like the archaeological evidence of the great Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, the pottery, the Germanic houses in late Roman towns, and the very early (late fourth century) settlement sites like Mucking, Essex.² There is the likelihood that some hillforts in South-West England, like Cadbury - Congresbury and Cannington³, were refortified in the early fifth century against Irish pirates or fellow Britons rather than Germanic enemies. There are place-names, genealogies, and memorial stones (including the recently discovered one from Wroxeter)⁴, but I hesitate to accept grass-marked pottery as evidence of Irish settlement in Cornwall until the date-range of souterrain ware is more firmly established, and until more detailed comparative studies have been made.

If we consider Ireland more closely during this period (say 400 to 600) we can point to evidence which Professor Thomas does not mention. The absence of any reference to Roman material, and more particularly late Roman booty, in Ireland is surprising, and so is the omission of late Roman west coast forts, like Caernarvon and Cardiff, from figure 6. An important theme, on which work is in progress but little has been recently published, is the continuity of types and techniques from the Roman Iron Age in Ireland into the Early Christian period. Recent work on Irish hillforts suggests that the occupation of some of these may have been ending round about 500 A.D.⁵, and 'flat-rimmed pottery' tends to disappear, whilst nearly all the dateable ring-forts seem to date from 500 A.D. or later.

It is an exciting prospect that future work may show what reasons lay behind this important change.

Chapter Three provides a useful brief survey of the early church in the British Isles. Many of the themes are dealt with more fully in Professor Thomas's other recent book, The Early Christian Archaeology of North Britain (1971), which includes a great deal of Irish material. It is only possible in the present state of our knowledge to build up a general picture by drawing on a few, often widely separated, sites, and all general conclusions need to be checked carefully by future work.

One direction from which much progress can be expected in Ireland is from the study of air photographs of ecclesiastical sites. The Early Development of Irish Society (Norman and St. Joseph, 1969) provides only a small sample of the photographs available in Dublin and Cambridge, but it is a very impressive sample. Leo Swann has recently been concentrating specifically on photographing ecclesiastical sites. Enclosures can often be seen to extend much further than the area sealed by burials, and the outer area is often available for excavation. Traces of subdivisions within enclosures are more common than we previously realised, and once the original extent of enclosures has been defined it becomes possible to make comparative studies of their areas. There is scope, too, for analysis of the siting of early churches: my work in the northern counties is showing a preference for certain locations and an avoidance of others.

But there comes a limit to what can be learned from material surviving above ground. The historical development which Professor Thomas is suggesting for western Britain and Ireland can only be checked by excavation, and the beginning of the long programme of excavations at Inishcaltra is most welcome. Excavation is needed to show the physical development of sites, to establish a chronological sequence, to resolve difficult historical questions like the extent of re-use of earlier enclosures by monasteries. Excavation can examine the extent of building in wood and other perishable materials, and provide dating evidence for the use of stone⁶. It will be interesting to see whether excavated sites produce post-Roman imported pottery. The present distribution in western Britain and Ireland does not seem to me to support Professor Thomas's claim for ecclesiastical sites as the primary context for this pottery⁷.

The final chapter on 'Hearth and Home' is very selective and does not claim to be a full treatment. None of the problems of Irish settlement sites recently surveyed by Professor O'Kelly and Professor Proudfoot are touched on⁸. Hillforts and ring-forts are not distinguished: 'Hillforts, British and Irish, occur in all shapes and sizes' (p.112). Recent excavation at Walesland Rath, Pembrokeshire⁹, which Professor Thomas does not mention, has shown that occupation in the rath began in the first century B.C. and ended by the third century A.D. Cornish 'rounds' seem to date from the

Roman period. Excavated souterrains in Cornwall date from the Iron Age and in Scotland from the Roman period. Were these 'Irish Sea' types exhibiting parallel development, or were they 'imported' into Ireland? The Roman dating material at the Rath of the Synods, Tara, is perhaps important here; could the idea of rath-building be an import of about this time? The question is still very open, but the Walesland evidence must be taken into account.

Excavation of ring-forts has tended to focus attention on the enclosures and their internal structures. Air photography helps us to see the sites with their associated fields and enclosures, and again Dr St. Joseph's photographs have pointed the way. When time and resources are short, and when threats to sites are multiplying, the intensive planned use of air photography can produce impressive and important results, as the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments have shown in their recent Dorset volumes, and even more impressively in still-unpublished work in Wiltshire. There is a chance now to bring scientific techniques to the study of settlement on a scale previously impossible. The usefulness of Carbon 14 dating is still controversial for recent periods, but its usefulness for Ireland and Britain at this time is beyond question, when other dating material is often scanty. Progress is being made with dendrochronology: a standard plot for oak is being built up in Belfast as samples become available. It is encouraging to see that the recent Goodlands and Beaghmore reports bring the story of vegetation and land-use to the present day¹⁰. The potential of locational analysis has been little exploited¹¹. The way is open if all possible techniques are applied, to build up a much fuller picture than ever before.

Two particular problems of this period deserve mention. One is the problem of terminology, about which Professor Thomas has strong views. He advocates the use of 'Early Christian' for this period in Britain as well as Ireland. There is certainly an urgent need for some attempt at standardizing terminology. A glance at The Early Development of Irish Society, or the first number of this Bulletin, will show what confusion reigns. What is meant by Celtic, Early Christian, Dark Age, Early Historic, Later Iron Age? It is possible for a worker in Ireland to keep up with idiosyncratic usage, but consider how confusing the situation must be for workers in Britain and on the Continent! 'Later Iron Age' has a good Scandinavian ancestry, but is very unfamiliar in a British Isles context. 'Early Christian' is so well-established and well understood that it should surely be preferred?

A second problem is the dating of material during these four centuries. Scientific methods have already been mentioned. We still await the long-promised paper on the origins and date of post-Roman imported pottery.

The close dating of small finds is more difficult. U.C.D. theses have been written in recent years on various types, including pins, combs, querns and souterrain ware. It would be helpful if the results of this work could be made more widely available. Recent excavations in western Britain, for example at Wroxeter, Hereford and several Devon village sites, have shown that, except for Cornwall, these areas used little or no pottery until the tenth or eleventh centuries. It is interesting to find another feature shared by the areas bordering the Irish Sea.

One of the peculiar fascinations, and also difficulties, of medieval archaeology is the working together of many different strands of evidence. An inter-disciplinary approach is essential, and the archaeologist studying these centuries in Ireland has a great deal to learn from, and also something to contribute to, place-name scholars and historians.

One impression left with me by Professor Thomas's book is the need for much more two-way traffic by archaeologists across the Irish Sea. Another is that we know much more archaeologically about this period in Ireland than twenty, or even ten years ago (over half the items in the bibliography were published since 1960), we still have a very long way to go.

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5. Rathgall, B. Raftery in Antiquity 44 (1970), 51-54; Dun Ailinne, B. Wailes in J.R.S.A.I. 100 (1970) 79-90; Clogher, R. Warner in G.S.I.H.S. Bulletin 1 (1970).
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7. Figs. 60 and 61 on p.86.
8. M.J. O'Kelly 'Problems of Irish Ring-forts' in The Irish Sea Province in Archaeology and History (1970), 50-54 and B. Proudfoot in Ulster J. Archaeol. 33 (1970), 37-48.
9. Current Archaeology 12 (Jan.1969), 4-7.
10. Goodland, H. Case and others in Journal Roy.Soc.Ant. Ireland 99 (1969), 39-53; Beaghmore, J.R. Pilcher in Ulster J. Archaeol. 32 (1969), 73-91.
11. But see E.M. Fahy in G.S.I.H.S. Bulletin 1 (1970), 5-6.

NOTES AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

- (i) 'The Erosion of History - Archaeology and Planning in Towns'. A conference organised by the Council for British Archaeology and the Royal Town Planning Institute in London, 12 May, 1972.

Report by Richard Haworth (An Foras Forbartha)

This one-day conference was organised by the Urban Research Committee of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) to launch a report produced by them, called 'The Erosion of History'. This deals with the current position of Urban Archaeology in Britain (i.e. England, Wales and Scotland) and for the first time brings together figures to show what a major crisis the country is facing in the attempt to record the early history of its principal and minor towns before the old areas are obliterated by redevelopment. The conference was held jointly with the Royal Town Planning Institute, on their premises, to emphasise the common interests of planners and archaeologists in town redevelopment and, more specifically to enlist the interest and support of town planners in archaeological excavation and preservation.

The situation revealed by the report is very serious indeed. Of some 906 'Historic towns' (those with urban status before 1750) 834 still have intact archaeological levels which can be investigated to give information about the town's early history. Of these, the central, 'historic' areas of 160 or so will be totally removed for redevelopment, involving the destruction of all archaeological remains, within the next 20 years, going by approved development plans at present in force. A further 352 historic towns will be extensively redeveloped within the same period, involving the removal of much of the archaeological record. These towns include all the largest and historically most important in the country, and yet at present adequate recording in advance of destruction is taking place in only 21 as far as underground remains are concerned, and in only 11 is an architectural record of standing buildings being made.

Luckily, the problem facing us in Ireland is not of this order, but this report gives us an indication of the rate at which unique information can be destroyed if no adequate provision is made for its record. At present in Ireland there is no position statement which can in any way compare with 'The Erosion of History', nor are the means to producing one conveniently to hand. In spite of the lack of emphasis on towns and town life in Irish history compared with much of Western Europe, there are many Irish towns with a Viking, Norman, or late Mediaeval origin, about the origins, growth and extent of which we are almost totally uninformed.

This report, then, has highlighted a great gap in our knowledge, and it is to be hoped that a group of interested persons can be formed to produce an equivalent document for Ireland, showing the number of Irish towns with 'historic' areas in need of investigation and record in advance of modern redevelopment.

A second feature of the conference was the publicity given to a few reports which have been prepared recently in certain individual towns called "The Archaeological Implications of Proposed Development in York", Oxford, Tewkesbury, Tamworth, etc. These reports have mostly been prepared by local committees to bring the effects of current development plans to public attention, and to stimulate informed discussion between the planning authorities and interested parties, particularly those concerned with the town's archaeological and architectural heritage. Such detailed plans, indicating on expert advice which areas of the towns should be recommended for preservation; which are within the area of known early settlement and require investigation, and which are the sites of known mediaeval or earlier buildings and so require excavation, appear to be the next logical step. Such a plan, for instance, is badly needed for the city of Dublin, and for several other Irish towns such as Limerick, Wexford, Waterford, New Ross, etc., where extensive redevelopment is now taking place.

The case of York was given a special place in the conference programme, in a lecture by Peter Addyman, as a good example of the happy results of archaeological planning. York was selected some years ago as one of four historic towns in England for which sample development plans were produced specifically to take account of their historic character. In the case of York it was recommended that an inner ring road be built to exclude traffic from the area of the mediaeval city to help preserve its character by making it predominantly a pedestrian area, with access for service vehicles only. This very enlightened policy was accepted by the town council, but the proposed route of the ring road was then found by the archaeologists to cut across the sites of: 4 Roman cemeteries, a gateway of the Roman fortress, 3 Roman roads, 2 mediaeval suburbs of the city including the sites of 5 hospitals, 4 churches, a priory, 2 important mediaeval houses and the mediaeval Jewish cemetery, as well as other lesser sites. While the need for the ring road was accepted, it was clear that much excavation in advance of its construction was needed, and so as a first step the report on the 'archaeological implications' was produced. The urgency of its contents were appreciated, and a special research institute on the history of the City of York has now been set up attached

to York University, with an estimated budget of £500,000 over the next 10 years, to deal with this very problem. This is a measure of the commitment to urban studies now visible in a few special cases, and it is in these terms that the old city of Dublin, which has so many historical points in common with York, must be considered if substantial rebuilding of the area within the mediaeval walled city is begun.

It is clear, however, that finance of this order from state funds can only be made available in rare and exceptional cases in Britain, and this is clearly the case here also. At the same time the threat to the archaeological deposits in the old town centres there is both massive and immediate, and in many cases if work cannot be done quickly on a particular site as soon as it becomes available, the chance will be lost for ever. Consequently, the CBA report has, as one of its main recommendations, the acceptance of the principle that the developer must be responsible for part of the cost of scientific record of the sites before rebuilding commences. In the words of the report: "Where the archaeological survey specifies a site of particular importance, a proportion of the contract sum should be devoted to archaeological purposes, estimated according to the site's importance, and costed in advance as part of the expenses of the operation of the site." (p. 62). This seems appropriate, and the most reasonable way of helping to meet the financial demands put upon state and private cultural agencies by commercial development. It is analogous to the requirement now commonly made of mining and extractive industries to restore a site to decent condition when their commercial work is completed. The contributory principle for archaeological work is well established in many other countries; in Sweden for example it may run up to 80% of the cost of excavation, and yet averages at only about 1% of the developer's costs for a site where any such work is needed. In Britain the government has accepted this principle for future motorway construction, and has agreed to pay some percentage of the total construction cost per mile for archaeological work in advance of necessary destruction. This is the kind of precedent which should be established here if scientific work is to be able to keep pace with investigating, recording and publishing the vanishing remains of the past.

(ii) Recording buildings in Co. Mayo; work in progress (1971)

by David H. Smith

MAYO : TOURMAKEADY : Glensaul Valley M 050650

Detailed survey of derelict farmhouses and outbuildings accompanied by the plotting of earlier cultivation features in the several townlands of Glensaul valley.

Preliminary analysis shows plans consistent with traditional houses recorded in other areas of western Ireland, though on average of smaller dimensions.

In what is tentatively described as the earliest remaining building in Greenaun townland the plan type is a linear arrangement of kitchen (windowless) with open hearth and wattle hooded chimney, a small room behind the hearth wall and a byre at the lower end of the house under a separate ridge. Dimensions of the house were: 32'9" x 16'5", ground to reconstructed ridge height 11'9". The byre was 16'3" x 11'6", the entire unit being built of limestone. Internal dimensions of the kitchen: 18'4" x 12'9". Originally the kitchen had opposed doors but one of them is blocked and has never been used in living memory - over 70 years. The kitchen also contained a bed outshot internal dimensions of which were: 4'10" x 2'11", and a small loft was traced at the lower end of the kitchen.

MAYO : PARTRY : FURNACE TOWNLAND M 132730

A preliminary survey of this extensive site revealed standing remains of a top-loading, wood burning pig iron furnace with two base points. Built of limestone blocks with rubble infill the basic dimensions of the furnace are: 20'4" x 22'9" at the base reducing to 19'0" x 21'0" at the existing top which varies in height from 15'10" on the north-west elevation to 17'4" on the north-east. The original approach to the top has not yet been established. At the top the walls are approximately 3'0" thick and what appears to be a flagged walk-way is traceable in places.

Evidence of stream coursing and a sluicing system; an overgrown stone road leading to the site past several derelict farmhouses, which are being surveyed to ascertain their date and possible relationship to the site; the widespread use of slag as additional walling material; and substantial piles of earth adjacent to the furnace site and probably spoil heaps, suggest that when working this was a substantial industrial site.

Reported as being out of use for one hundred years in 1941 a strong oral tradition attaches to the site which may date from the late eighteenth century.

MAYO : BALLINTUBBER : (Old Post Office) M 145770

This example of a three roomed farmhouse was measured prior to its demolition in the course of widening the T 40 Castlebar - Galway road during the autumn 1970. The building had a bed outshot on the north side and a settle bed on the south side of the kitchen. Overall dimensions were: 37'0" x 15'3", ground to ridge height 15'3". One of the roof trusses was of a type previously unrecorded in this area of Mayo, having a collar and saddle with the truss blades passing through mortice holes in the saddle and the head of the blades being notched to clasp the ridge onto the saddle. The other trusses were of collar and yoke type with the head of the blades forming a vee section for the ridge.

(iii) A Wicklow folk-museum?

by Dr Anngret Simms

The Dublin and Wicklow Mountains have long been an Irish enclave inside the Pale. This is the reason why in the glens of these mountains the traditional rural life continued for much longer than in the surrounding lowlands.

Material remnants of this tradition are at present in danger of getting lost under the afforestation scheme of the Forestry Division which owns about 14% of the land in the County - mostly of marginal agricultural value and therefore in areas where, because of isolation and poverty of soil, cultural relic features were maintained particularly long.

This, to my experience, is the case in the Upper Liffey Valley where plantations are in progress on the south-western slopes of the valley encircling a number of virtually deserted clachan-like settlements. These settlements show examples of traditional house-types and stone-walling (keeping-holes, sheep-gaps and keys of the walls) and of traditional implements like the old cart with spiked wheels and in particular of cut stones like querns or hay-stack stands of granite slabs.

Would it not be possible to collect these items as far as possible before they are ploughed under and to arrange a small folk-museum, say in Ballyknockan. (1961:71 inh.) There are in Ballyknockan a number of deserted traditional houses and traces of old field patterns (lazy-bed cultivation). Good examples of the art of local stone-masonry (crosses and other items) can be found in some of the houses.

Such a museum, even with a modest set-up, could serve a valuable educational purpose by illustrating to interested tourists or students from an urban background house-types, field-patterns and implements connected with the traditional life of a subsistence-economy as it prevailed in this area until recently.

SOCIETIES AND FIELD CLUBS

1971-2 LIST

1. All-Ireland Societies(a) GeneralSecretary

An Taisce

Kevin Fox,
 An Taisce,
 126 Lower Baggot Street,
 Dublin 2.
 (list of Branch secretaries
 available from An Taisce)

The National Trust

J. E. C. Lewis-Crosby,
 Malone House,
 Barnett Demesne,
 Malone Road,
 Belfast BT9 5PU

(b) Archaeological

Royal Society of
 Antiquaries of Ireland

B. O'Riordain,
 National Museum,
 Kildare St.,
 Dublin 2.

Irish Society for
 Industrial Archaeology

K. A. Mawhinney,
 34 Lakelands Close,
 Blackrock,
 Co. Dublin.

Association of Young
 Irish Archaeologists

Aidan Walsh,
 Department of Archaeology,
 University College,
 Galway.

(c) Architectural

Irish Georgian Society

Miss Patricia McSweeney,
 Leixlig,
 Co. Kildare.

Ulster Architectural
 Heritage Society

30 College Gardens,
 Belfast BT9 6BT

(d) Historical

Irish Historical Society

Professor F. J. Byrne,
 Department of History,
 University College,
 Dublin.

Ulster Society for Irish
 Historical Studies

C. O'Leary,
 Department of Political Science,
 Queen's University Belfast.

Economic and Social
History Society of
Ireland

L. M. Cullen,
Trinity College,
Dublin 2.

The Military History
Society of Ireland

Lt. Col. L. Prendergast,
c/o Newman House,
U.C.D.,
86 Stephens Green,
Dublin 2.

(e) Genealogical

The Irish Genealogical
Research Society

Mrs L. Rosbottom,
82 Eaton Square,
London S.W.1.

The Butler Society

Mrs E. Smith,
Kells Priory,
Kilkenny.

(f) Others

Irish Society for
Archives

P. J. White,
c/o Conway Room,
University College,
Dublin.

2. Regional and County Societies (alphabetical)

Old Athlone Society

N. W. English,
Scotch Parade,
Athlone.

Breifne Hist. Soc.

Rev. A. H. Leaden, B.D.,
St Patrick's College,
Cavan.

Old Carlow Society

S. O'Leary,
Montgomery Street,
Carlow.

Cork Hist. & Arch. Soc.

Mrs C. Clayton,
3 Allendale Drive,
Melbourne,
Bishopstown,
Cork.

Co. Donegal Historical Soc.	Mrs K. Emerson, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.
The Down Society	C. Flinn, "South Winds", Slaney Brae, Downpatrick, Co. Down.
Galway Arch. & Hist. Soc.	E. Duffy, M.A., LL.B., The Courthouse, Galway.
Co. Kildare Arch. Soc.	Mrs M. M. Grehan, "Oakfield", Naas, Co. Kildare.
Kerry Arch. & Hist. Soc.	Miss H. O'Sullivan, County Library, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Kilkenny Arch. Soc.	Miss M. Hegarty, 2 St James' Park, Kilkenny.
Longford Hist. Soc.	J. Flynn, Aughadegnan, Longford.
Co. Louth Arch. & Hist. Soc.	N. Ross, 5 Oliver Plunkett Park, Dundalk.
Meath Arch. & Hist. Soc.	Fr. Kelly, Parochial House, Trim.
North Mayo Hist. Soc.	Carmel Hughes, Rehins, Ballina, Co. Mayo.
Offaly Hist. Soc.	Rev. McGreevy, Mount Bolus, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Roscommon Historical Society	J. Cronin, Mount Talbot, Co. Roscommon.

Thomond Arch. Soc.	C. Lynch, Buratty Castle, Co. Clare.
Ulster Archaeological Society	W. G. Simpson, Department of Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast.
Ulster Folklife Society	A. McClelland, Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra, Holywood, Co. Down.
Old Waterford Society	
Old Wexford Soc.	Miss N. Welsh, 1 St Ibar's Villas, Wexford.

3. Town and district Societies (alphabetical)

Ards Hist. Soc.	A. McNeilly, Kilgoris, Killarn, Newtownards.
Arklow Hist. Soc.	P. J. Murray, St Anne's, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
Armagh Diocesan Historical Soc.	Rev. R. O'Muiri, Parochial House, Armagh.
Bangor Hist. Soc.	Mrs M. Rea, 5 Springhill Ave., Bangor (West), Co. Down.
Belfast Naturalists Field Club	Miss A. B. Carter, 30 Cleaver Park, Belfast 9.
Berehaven Field Club	R. O'Dwyer, Eyeries, Bantry, Co. Cork.
Friends of the Burren Society	Mrs A. Keane, Keanes Hotel, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.

Buttevant Field Club	J. D. O'Kane, Military Road, Buttevant, Co. Cork.
The Carrick-on-Suir Society	
Castledermot Hist. Soc.	Mrs B. Dalton, St John's, Castledermot, Athy, Co. Kildare.
Clare Arch. and Hist. Soc.	J. Flynn, The Friary, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Clogher Historical Society	Rev. P. Livingstone, St Michael's College, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.
Craigavon Hist. Soc.	Mrs F. E. Gracey, Inn Road, Dollingstown, Lurgan, Co. Armagh.
Derry Hist. Soc.	
Donabate Historical and Folklore Soc.	P. Bates, Rahillion, Donabate, Co. Dublin.
The Old Drogheda Society	Mrs M. Corcoran, 5 Crushrod Ave., Drogheda.
Dublin Naturalists Field Club	C. Breen, 7 Watermile Road, Dublin 5.
Old Dublin Society	J. A. K. Grahame, 13 Palmerstone Park, Dublin 6.

Old Dunboyne Soc.

Old Dundalk Society

Miss Annette Waller,
73 Castletown Road,
Dundalk.

Dundrum Society

Mrs J. A. Whatmough,
Clock House,
Dundrum,
Co. Down.

The Edgeworth Society

Mrs M. McElderry,
c/o Ulster Bank,
Trim,
Co. Meath.

Enniskillen Field Club

W. Brady,
"Crannog",
Rakeelan Glebe,
Watergate,
Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh.

Fermoy Field Club

M. J. Murphy,
Parnell St.,
Fermoy,
Co. Cork.

Old Galway Soc.

Miss R. Lee,
14 Rockmount Road,
Highfield Park,
Rahoon,
Galway.

Glens of Antrim
Hist. Soc.

J. McCann,
76 Broughshane Road,
Ballymena,
Co. Antrim.

Kilbeggan Hist. Soc.

Miss K. Flynn,
Main St.,
Kilbeggan,
Co. Westmeath.

Killuccan Arch. Soc.

Mrs R. S. Vandeleur,
Wardenstown,
Killuccan,
Co. Westmeath.

Larne and District Folklore Society	J. Clifford, 66 Ballycraigy Ring, Larne, Co. Antrim.
Limavady Naturalists Field Club	Mrs M. McConnell, Lisnakilly, Limavady, Co. Derry.
Lisburn Historical Society	H. Duff, 45 Woodland Park, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.
Londonderry Naturalists Field Club	T. C. Roulston, M.A., Principal, Belmont House School, Racecourse Road, Londonderry.
Lough Gara Hist. Soc.	Mrs U. Staunton, Ballaghderreen, Co. Roscommon.
Mallow Field Club	W. J. Roche, Bellevue Cottage, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Newcastle Field Club	T. P. Walsh, 41 Slievenamaddy Avenue, Newcastle, Co. Down.
Old Newry Society	Mrs J. G. McNeilly, Endolaire, Balmoral Park, Newry.
Ordnance Survey (N.I.) Arch. Group	T. A. O'Neill, 57 Mountainview Gdns., Belfast BT14 7GU
Rostrevor and District Naturalists Field Club	Miss E. C. Crawford, Bridge Street, Rostrevor, Co. Down.

Route Naturalists
Field Club

J. V. Donaldson,
Blackrock Cottage,
Runkerry,
Bushmills,
Co. Antrim.

Sligo Field Club

Miss M. McGettrick,
c/o Eoiste Gairm-Oideachais,
Riverside,
Sligo.

Old Tuam Society

Old Waterford Society

Old Youghal Society

J. Buckley,
2 Carleton Place,
Youghal,
Co. Cork.

It would be appreciated if members would help to keep
this list under continuous revision by letting the Secretary
know of additions and corrections.