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Clonmel Excavations – 1

Medieval Town Wall — Dowd's Lane site

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Introduction

This paper covers archaeological excavations carried out at Dowd's Lane, Clonmel, between July 6 and July 17, 1992. A further week of monitoring was carried out by Mary Henry between July 20 and July 24. Her additional findings are discussed in her paper (p. 169, this issue).

The work was funded by Showerings Ltd., the owners of the site, prior to the construction of storage vats. As the site was known to be occupied by the medieval town wall of Clonmel, archaeological excavations were carried out prior to development.

The site occupies the area between Dowd's Lane to the east and the outer precincts of the Franciscan Friary to the west; see Fig. 1. The site and the wall itself lie within the south-eastern sector of what was the medieval town of Clonmel.

A long trench was excavated north-south following the line of the town wall. Another trench was excavated, extending eastwards, back from the wall (at its northern end) to determine the extent and nature of the outer ditch. A third trench was dug inside the town wall (also at the northern end), extending westwards, to determine whether there was a bank and/or further activity inside the town wall; see Fig. 2.

From these investigations it was apparent that the wall was well built and had survived in a generally good condition for the length of the excavated trench. A deep, basically flat-bottomed ditch was also uncovered, although the extent of this could not be established as it ran out under Dowd's Lane and hence on to Corporation property. The trench dug in the interior suggested that the wall was built on or against a bank. A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this interior trench and from the outer ditch, pointing to the medieval origins of this part of Clonmel. A lot of later activity was also apparent on the site, much of this probably relating to 19th century brewery activity.

Historical Background

Clonmel's development as an important centre in Anglo-Norman Ireland is well documented. Although its date of foundation is difficult to estimate, it appears that it was a going concern before 1230 and had probably reached its full medieval growth before the end of the 13th century (Bradley 1985, p. 39). The earliest written reference to the town so far known is in the Pipe Roll 14 John in 1211-1212. The town is mentioned again in 1225, when permission was granted for an annual fair to be held there:

"The King grants to Richard de Burgh, that he have, till the King's age, a yearly fair at Clunmel on the vigil of all saints and the seven days following. Mandate accordingly to William Marshall, justiciary of Ireland". (Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, Sweetman, (ed.) 1875, vol. 1, no. 1310, p. 198).

Bradley (1985, p. 48) suggests that the town's foundation could probably be attributed to the



de Burgh family. In 1243 we get the first reference to Clonmel as a borough (Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, 1171-1251, no. 2607).

After Richard de Burgh the administration of the town fell to Otto de Grandison, who was appointed Sheriff in 1265 and was granted lands in Tipperary, including the manor of Clonmel. Improvements in weapons etc. meant (by the end of the 13th century) that stronger defences were needed, and de Grandison as a military man recognized the need for good town fortifications. In 1298 he received permission from Edward I to raise taxes to fund these defences:

“Grant, at the instance of Otto de Grandison, to the bailiffs and good men of Clonmele of murage for ten years. 1298, April 8th, Westminster”. (Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1292-1301, p. 40).

Further grants were made in 1316, 1319, 1335, 1356, 1364 and 1409 for the continuation of the building and the upkeep and improvement of the wall and defences. Evidence from Clonmel and other Irish Anglo-Norman towns shows that while most towns received their murgage grants by the late 13th/early 14th century, most of the surviving remains date to the 15th century, suggesting that the townsmen continually kept their defences in good repair (Bradley 1985, p. 38).

During de Grandison’s administration the Franciscan order acquired an area of land in the town (in 1269) and established a friary there. This area was bounded by Dowd’s Lane on the east, Mitchell Street to the north, Sarsfield Street to the west and the river Suir to the south; see Fig. 1. This also suggests that the eastern limits of the town had been established by 1269. The excavation site therefore occupies part of the outer precincts of the Franciscan Friary grounds.

Much of the original 13th century church has been destroyed, although a 14th or 15th century tower/belfry still survives. Following the Reformation the Friary was sold in 1543. However, by 1789 the Franciscans had returned to the site, although the grounds by now occupied a much smaller area than they did in medieval times. (See also Ms. Henry’s paper (p. 169 of this issue) for more detailed information on the Friary site).

References to Clonmel and its town wall and defences continue throughout the 17th century. The Charter of 5 July, 1608, when Clonmel became a free borough, states that the town was –

“compassed and fortified on every side with Turrets, Castles and forts, for the amendment and repair whereof great and frequent costs are expended.” (Shee & Watson 1975, p. 11).

From the Civil Survey of 1654-6 we know that Clonmel had by then three inter-connecting suburbs – east, north and west. The eastern suburb extended to a lane called “Bohir Mullinparky” and comprised “about 50 cabins with garden plots, 3 houses and 3 weirs” (Shee & Watson 1975, p. 11). The Civil Survey also states that Clonmel was –

“walled about with a stone wall of Lyme and stone, with severall Turrets and hath the accomodation of a stone Bridge together with two greist mills on the same”. (Shee & Watson 1975, p. 11).

Following Cromwell’s siege of Clonmel in 1650 it would appear that the area of the old friary suffered badly in the subsequent destruction, and it was here that the “ffort of Clonmel” was built soon after. However, by the end of the 17th century, with the promise of peace and prosperity, the need for strong fortifications and defences was no longer really necessary. From



this time onwards people probably began settling beyond the town walls, leading to the infilling of the town ditch and the gradual decline of the town walls.

While the historical evidence concentrates on the existence of the stone-built town wall, there is some evidence pointing to a bank and ditch. Lyons (1936) refers to an "earthen rampart 9 feet thick, with a stone facing on both sides 3 feet thick, 15 feet overall" being uncovered under Mary Street in the north west of the town during sewerage operations "a few years ago" (Lyons 1936 JRSAL, p. 287). This may suggest that Clonmel's first defences consisted of an earthen rampart (and ditch) before the construction of stone walls.

Lyons further suggests that this rampart may have extended west of Mary Street and also east, joining the town wall at the east end of Market Street and "would explain the slight depression here." He observed further "depressions" along Emmett Street and Dowd's Lane which, to him, represented the remains of a ditch of the earthen rampart. He freely admits that this is only conjecture, as the rampart had not been traced at this point. However, on the archaeological evidence recovered from Dowd's Lane (discussed in this paper), the existence of an earthen bank appears a strong possibility.

Finally, the town walls of Clonmel would have enclosed an area approximately 425m long E-W, by 250-300m wide N-S, incorporating 11 ha/26 acres of land (Bradley 1985, p. 45). The course of the wall can still be traced, and sections of the northern, western and eastern walls can still be seen.

Excavations

Four trenches (A, B, C and D) were excavated on the site at Dowd's Lane; see Fig. 2.

Trench A

This trench measured 22.75m in length, varied between 4.5m and 6.5m in width and ran approximately north-south. It was excavated along the line of the town wall and specifically followed the line of the wall once it was determined.

The major feature of this cutting was, of course, the town wall itself (F2); see Fig. 3. This was exposed approximately 5.75m west of Dowd's Lane and running parallel to it. It was between 30-80cm beneath the modern surface level with a layer of rubble (F1) and a flag and concrete surface lying over it. The wall extended the length of the cutting, running approximately north-south, for a distance of 22.75m. The width in most places was approximately 1.8m-1.9m, and it varied in depth from 2.1m-2.5m; see Plates 1 and 2.

It was built largely of rough uncut pieces of limestone and small blocks of sandstone which varied between 10-35cm³ in size. A soft, quite soluble, lime mortar was also apparent in places but was not used consistently throughout. There was a well defined facing of roughly cut stone on the outer ditch face - see Fig. 7 and Plate 5 - with a slight batter to this outer face; see Fig. 5. The inner face was less well defined and sloped inwards from the top to the base as if built against or on a bank. A section cut through the wall by Ms. Henry showed that the wall had a clay and rubble core mixed with the large limestone blocks; see Ms. Henry's paper (p. 169 of this issue) and her Fig. 1 (p. 172 of this issue).

In general the wall appeared to be well built and in good condition. However, at its southern end it was in poorer repair. The wall was narrower here, being approximately 1.45m wide. This was due to the loss of the facing stones on both sides of the wall at this point. Both sides of the wall appear to have been disturbed and both original faces have been removed. The outer ditch



face of this section is now faced with redbrick and forms part of a redbrick structure, F13; see Fig. 3 and Print 4.

The town wall formed one side of a square or rectangular structure extending eastwards from the town wall. Three walls of F13 were picked up (north, south and west), with the northern and southern walls disappearing into the baulk where presumably the eastern wall was also located. F13 measured 4.1m in length and was excavated to a depth of approximately 2.0m below ground level; it contained a rubble fill consisting of very large pieces of stone, redbrick, mortar and slate. The fill and the redbrick walls were still extending downwards and had probably removed all or most traces of ditch fill at this point.

Another feature of F13 was a narrow band of yellow, natural clay, approximately 5cm wide, which surrounded the redbrick. It is unclear what function this served, although it may possibly have served as a sealant or daubing. This band of yellow clay and the redbrick construction were very similar to another structure, F14, also located east of the town wall; see Fig. 3 and description for Trench D.

The redbrick construction suggests a date of post 1700 and may in fact be post 1800, dating to brewery activity on the site. No finds were recovered from inside this structure. The wall was also disturbed in two other places by two culverts/drains, F3 and F5, which cut through and ran at right angles to the wall.

F3 – see Fig. 3 – was located approximately 9m along the wall from the northern edge of the cutting. It ran from west to east at right angles to the town wall from a building to the west (wall remains of F17 and F16) to the east, where it disappeared under Dowd's Lane where there is a culvert running south towards the river. F3 was traced for a distance of 6.2m to the edge of the cutting, whereupon it disappeared under Dowd's Lane. It was 50cm wide and varied between 50-75cm in depth.

It was a stone-built structure consisting of cut sandstone blocks and small pieces of limestone approximately 20 x 10 x 8 cm and containing coarse mortar. It was also flagged with sandstone and limestone on top and had a flagged base of sandstone. However, although it was flagged over the wall it was open from the wall to the eastern cutting edge. There were two or three pieces of redbrick in its construction; these appeared to be roughly built and possibly hand-made.

This may suggest that it was quite an early drain, possibly 18th century in date; otherwise it would be expected to have been built more or less entirely of redbrick. A later drain, 20th century in date, had also been cut into this earlier drain. This was of quite different construction, consisting of a 20th century drain pipe, a concrete base, and redbrick and mortar at the point it cuts into F3. A modern iron grate surrounded by redbrick and concrete, uncovered at the point where it adjoins walls F16 & F17, is probably also a later addition to the original drain/culvert.

The fill of F3 (F4) appears to reflect the 20th century drain cut into it, as it contained only three pieces of 20th century bottle glass and one complete 20th century bottle. It also contained a loose, silty slightly gritty rubble fill, grey in colour, with slate chips, mortar, stone and pebbles also apparent.

F5 was a second culvert/drain located approximately 15m along the wall from the northern cutting edge. This also ran from west to east at right angles to the town wall, but also had a slight curve to it; see Fig. 3. It probably ran from the same building as F3 – see wall F17 to the west, and Plate 3 – and again was running under Dowd's Lane to line up with the culvert under there. It was traced for a distance of 3.5m, although the line of it was lost to the west where an area of cobbling seems to have disturbed it. It was 33cm in width and 60cm in depth.



It was also stone-built, consisting of cut sandstone blocks approximately 20 x 10 x 8 cm with only a couple of pieces of limestone. There were traces of lime mortar, but it appeared to be largely dry stone-built. Sandstone flags covered the top of the drain where it crossed the wall but it was open from the wall to the edge of the cutting to the east.

Unlike F3, it did not have a flagged base but rather a rough pebbly base, which was sitting directly on top of the upper ditch fill, F7. No redbrick was found in its construction and it had not been cut by any later drains; hence the finds, although being post-medieval in date, were more 18th-20th century in date rather than purely 20th century. Again, this may be quite an early drain (possibly 18th century) without the later 20th century disturbance of F3.

The fill (F6) of F5 consisted of a fine, silty slightly gritty gravel, grey in colour and containing a few slate chips and mortar. The finds were much more numerous and showed more variety than in F3, consisting of glass, animal bone, shell, clay pipe and post-medieval pottery sherds such as black ware, transfer ware, shell-edged ware, brown ware and cream ware.

Other features uncovered in Trench A included a wall, F18, which ran between the two drains/culverts (F3 & F5), east of the town wall; see Fig. 3. It ran north-south and parallel to the town wall and appears to have blocked off F5. It also ran up against F14. It would appear to be later than the town wall and later than the two drains, but its exact function and relationship to these other features remain unclear.

Another feature, F10, was uncovered also to the east of the town wall; see Fig. 3. This consisted of a cobbled work surface abutting a drain (F19) and the wall. There were patches of burning apparent on this surface with small bits of redbrick and a piece of bottle glass trampled into it, suggesting that it may not be all that old. The remains of a kiln may also be apparent, just disappearing into the edge of the cutting, and the surface seems to represent some industrial work site, possibly associated with the 19th century brewery activity on the site.

From F10 there was then a step down to the remains of a drain, F19, built with a base of slate flags right up against the town wall and F10. This formed a ledge on which there was a concentration of black burnt material. This was a fine black burnt soil, containing a very large amount of animal bone (unburnt and quite small in size), and some crushed shell and fine bits of mortar.

It would appear that F19 was later disturbed by F10, whereupon it lost its function as a drain. However, it is clear that it originally functioned as a drain and flowed from north to south and into the drain F3. Thus it may be contemporary with the drains F3 and F5 and, therefore, possibly 18th century in date.

Two more features were picked up in Trench A, walls F16 and F17, which were located to the west of the town wall and running basically north-south and parallel to the town wall; see Fig. 3. F16 was built of sandstone, mortar and slate, with a redbrick facing, and would appear to be post 1800 in date and probably relating to 19th century brewery activity. F17 was built of sandstone and mortar with a small amount of redbrick in the foundations. It also appeared to have two side walls (north and south), seemingly forming a rectangular structure with the town wall serving as an eastern wall; see Fig. 3.

It was unclear what this structure was, what purpose it served and what its relationship with the town wall was. It is not even certain whether it was a deliberately built structure or not; there was no floor surface inside this area and it contained the same layer of fill (F8) as elsewhere on the site. This part of the site was monitored by Ms. Henry (see p. 169 of this issue), who found another wall built up against F17. Her findings were also inconclusive, but it would appear that the wall was probably 19th century in date and may be associated with brewing activity.

Trench A therefore was dominated by the town wall (F2). Further detailed information on the wall was established during monitoring and removal of part of the wall by Ms. Henry, and her findings are discussed in her paper. Ms. Henry also uncovered finds from the wall on its removal; see her paper. These were all 18th-20th century in date and would suggest removal and rebuilding of parts of the wall at this time, rather than an 18th-20th century date for the origins of the wall (p. 169 of this issue).

Historical evidence suggests that building of the wall commenced from the end of the 13th century onwards. It is also probable that there was continual rebuilding and upkeep of the wall for the next couple of centuries and, on the archaeological evidence, it would appear that there was ongoing rebuilding and disturbance into the 18th-20th century.

The rest of the features in Trench A were all post-medieval, dating to between the 18th and 20th century; this was reflected in the finds recovered from them. However, from the layer of fill (F8) which covered most of the area within the town wall, three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. These included a sherd of French Saintonge ware, another sherd of French ware and a piece of local ware. These at the least point to the medieval origins of this part of the town.

Trench B

This trench measured 5.5m x 3.5m and ran west-east away from the town wall; see Fig. 2. The intention here was to determine the extent and nature of the town ditch, F9, outside the town wall.

A ditch of maximum depth of 3.15m was established, but the width could not be determined as it ran out under Dowd's Lane and hence on to Corporation property. Thus a width of only 5.5m could be established within the confines of the property, although the ditch was clearly running onwards and outwards for a considerable distance more.

During the Clonmel Drainage Project Ms. Henry found the ditch to be at least 7m wide; see her paper (p. 169 of this issue). It appeared to be basically flat-bottomed, with a slight slope downwards away from the wall; see Fig. 5. Furthermore, the base was below the current water level table, making working conditions difficult. However, both the base of the wall and the base of the ditch appeared to have been cut into natural riverine gravels. The fill of the ditch consisted of a number of layers clearly shown in the section drawing for the ditch; see Fig. 5.

Beneath the modern flag and concrete surface and general rubble layer that covered the whole site (F1) was a layer of fill, F7. This was found covering most of the site on the eastern ditch side. This upper layer of fill consisted of a dark grey clay containing charcoal flecks, some small stone, slate and bits of redbrick.

Finds from here were all post-medieval in date and included animal bone, oyster shell, glass, iron and post-medieval pottery such as gravel tempered ware, smoothware, brown ware, cream ware, tin glazed earthenware, transfer ware, sgraffito, Westerwald stoneware and white salt glazed stoneware. A few pieces of human bone were also recovered; these were probably associated with the burial ground/cemetery in the adjacent Franciscan Friary.

Beneath F7 was a layer of clay, mortar and small stone, into which a concrete and stone drain had been cut. The concrete suggests a date of *c.* 1900 which in turn suggests the layers of fill above – F7 and F1 must also be *c.* 1900, or later in date. However, beneath and abutting this is another layer, F11, which appears to be original undisturbed ditch fill. F11 consisted of a very dark grey clay which was black and very humic and peaty in places. The black humic layer appeared to merge with the dark grey clay layer – see Fig. 5 – and appeared to belong to the same episode of ditch fill.



This layer contained charcoal, organic and humic material, a very large amount of animal bone, clay pipe fragments, glass, bone, iron, leather and post-medieval pottery such as gravel tempered ware, smoothware, Westerwald stoneware, sgraffito tin glazed earthenware and slipware. In addition, two pieces of medieval pottery were also recovered, including one sherd of possible French ware and one of local ware.

It should also be noted that the post-medieval pottery finds would appear to be "early" post-medieval rather than "late" post-medieval. Later wares, such as cream wares and transfer wares, were clearly absent from the assemblage. This therefore, would appear to represent a major episode of tipping with a large part of the ditch being filled, probably in the late 17th or 18th century on the evidence of the finds recovered from this layer.

This would seem to indicate that the need for a ditch and major defences around the town had waned by the late 17th or 18th century and hence it was filled in at this time, which may also have allowed for expansion outside the town walls to take place. The lack of tip lines also suggests that this involved one major episode of filling, rather than a slow gradual build-up of material over time. This in turn suggests a deliberate infilling, which again may also have to do with the need to expand outside the medieval town walls by this stage.

A layer of stone and clay, stained by iron panning, was apparent beneath F11 up against the town wall. Another layer of stone, mixed with the black, organic material of F11, was apparent further to the east. Beneath this was the natural riverine gravel/subsoil of the area into which the wall and the ditch had both been dug.

Historical evidence would suggest that following Cromwell's siege of Clonmel in 1650 the late 17th century saw an element of peace and prosperity returning and the need for defences waning. This, and the need to expand, would have seen the ditch being filled in, a fact that would seem to be backed up by the archaeological evidence discussed above.

Trench C

This trench measured 5.5m x 2m and ran east-west away from the town wall; see Fig. 2. The intention was to determine whether there was a bank and/or further activity inside the town wall.

As with the rest of the site, this trench was covered by the rubble layer F1 and, beneath that, the dark grey clay layer F8, which also covered much of the site to the west of the town wall; see Fig. 6. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this layer elsewhere on the site and a further two sherds were picked up in this trench. Significantly, they were both found together, wedged right against the town wall itself near the base of F8 and the surface of F12. These included a sherd of local ware representing a jug with a strap handle with deep grooves cut into it. The other sherd would also appear to be a piece of local ware.

Directly below F8 and the pottery finds was an orange/red sandy subsoil. This would appear to be natural redeposited sandy clay, making up a bank on or against which the town wall was built. This was barren of finds except for the two sherds of medieval pottery discussed above.

F12 ran basically level for approximately 3.6m away from the wall before dipping down, suggesting the dip of a bank; see Fig. 6. This was covered by F8 which may represent tip fill, while another layer of redeposited subsoil containing ash and charcoal may represent a tip line within this. The dip in the redeposited subsoil would certainly seem to represent the inner line of a bank. This subsoil (F12) was dug to a depth of approximately 50 cm in both this trench and at several points along the wall in Trench A. It was uniform throughout, showed no change and was barren of finds, strongly suggesting natural subsoil that was redeposited to form a bank. Ms. Henry recovered no finds from this subsoil either.

It was also clear from excavation that the town wall was built on a grey/green coloured gravel layer, quite gritty and consisting of approximately 95% small stones and pebbles approximately 1-3 cm³; see Fig. 6 and Plate 6. This – and the nature of the bank – became even more apparent when the site was further excavated under the direction of Ms. Henry.

One other feature was picked up in this trench; a wall, F15, running east-west along the northern edge of the cutting. It was built of sandstone and mortar. An area of cobbling appeared to be associated with this wall; both appear to be post-medieval in date, probably dating to the 19th century. This wall (F15) was also used as part of the base for the 20th century drainpipe running into the culvert/drain F3 – see Fig. 3 – which in turn suggests a modern date for it.

Trench C therefore would appear to confirm the existence of an interior bank to the outer ditch and upon which the town wall was then built. The bank was built from an orange/red subsoil, and the recovery of two sherds of medieval pottery near the surface of the bank and against the town wall itself point to the medieval origins of the wall, and possibly of the bank itself. The fact that the wall is built on the bank clearly suggests that the bank must in fact be earlier than the wall. However, there were no finds or indications or historical information to suggest how much earlier.

Trench D

This trench measured 4m x 2.5m and ran east-west away from the town wall on the outer ditch side. The original intention was to pick up the line of the town ditch outside the wall. However, on excavation, the trench was found to be totally occupied by a redbrick structure, F14; see Fig. 3. Three sides of this structure were picked up (north, east and west), with the southern side disappearing under the baulk. Its dimensions corresponded closely with the trench, measuring 3.5m in length (width was not established) and being bounded by a removed wall which ran along the edge of Dowd's Lane.

A flagged floor was uncovered approximately 1.8m–2m below the modern surface level. As this would appear to have removed most, if not all, of the ditch fill material, the trench was then abandoned in terms of establishing the extent and nature of the ditch.

F14 was very similar in construction to F13 in terms of its redbrick construction, and in particular with the band of yellow clay/daubing, approximately 5cm thick, running all the way around its outer edge. On its western edge F14 was built up against another wall (F18). Both this and F14 would appear to be later than the town wall, and the redbrick construction suggests a date of post-1700s.

It is possible that this relates to brewery activity on the site and hence is probably post-1800 in date. The structure was filled with a redbrick, stone and mortar rubble with a large amount of gravel (again, quite like F13). No finds were recovered from the structure.

Summary

The excavation established the line and extent of the south eastern section of the medieval walls of Clonmel. The wall proved to be well built and in good condition and could be traced for the extent of the excavated cutting (i.e. 22.75m). It was constructed from limestone and a small amount of sandstone, with a well defined outer face. The inner face was rougher and less well defined and narrowed towards the base. Traces of lime mortar was also noted in places. Monitoring of the removal of the wall by Ms. Henry revealed a core of rough uncut limestone and sandstone, intermixed with a coarse loose clay and small stones.

Excavation outside the wall revealed a large, flat bottomed ditch at least 3.15m deep and at least 5.5m wide. As the ditch ran out under the road, the total width could not be established.



Both the ditch and the wall were cut into the natural riverine gravels of the site. A layer of fill in the ditch (F11) appears to represent original ditch fill, while the lack of tip lines suggests that this involved one major episode of infilling rather than a gradual filling in over time. The finds from this layer strongly suggest a late 17th or 18th century date for this. This in turn suggests that the need for defences had waned by this time as well as, perhaps, the need to expand outside the town walls by the 18th century.

Excavation of the interior revealed the existence of a bank built up from the natural subsoil of the site. The way the wall was built against this subsoil and the way it narrowed towards its base also strongly suggest that it was built on or against a pre-existing bank.

A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the site, mainly from the interior, as well as two sherds from the original ditch fill (F11). These included both local wares and some imported French wares and point to the medieval origins of this part of Clonmel. Of most interest were two sherds found wedged against the town wall in Trench C, sitting just slightly above the natural bank material. This would strongly suggest a medieval context for the origins of the wall and town. This is further backed up by the historical evidence which suggests that the building of the wall commenced from the end of the 13th century, when permission was given in 1298 to raise taxes to finance the building of fortifications and defences.

Finally the existence of later features, including some cut into the town wall itself (F3, F5, F13 etc), and the assemblage of post-medieval pottery and other artefacts, points to the continued use of the site after the medieval period and indeed into the 20th century.

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NOTES TO FIGS, 4, 5 & 6

Figure 4 – Section S1–S2

- Layer 1.** Limestone flag and concrete floor surface.
- Layer 2.** (F1) Rubble layer covering the site, consisting of redbrick, mortar, stone, slate and clay. Contained animal bone, charcoal, slag, iron, bottle glass, clay pipe and post-medieval pottery, e.g. black ware, sgraffito, stoneware, slipware, cream ware, transfer ware, etc.



Figure 5 – Section S2–S3

- Layer 3.** (F7) Upper layer of ditch fill. A dark grey clay containing charcoal flecks, some small stones and small inclusions of slate, mortar and redbrick. Contained a lot of animal bone, some oyster shells, iron, bottle glass and post-medieval pottery, e.g. sgraffito, stoneware, brown ware, cream ware, etc. Also contained two pieces of human skull probably from a cemetery associated with the adjacent Franciscan Friary. Very similar to F8/Layer 12.
- Layer 4.** Orange brown clay containing stone and mortar.
- Layer 5.** Upper fill of concrete and stone drain. Dark grey-green fill, mixture of clay and gritty, silty material, containing small stones.
- Layer 6.** Layer fill of concrete and stone drain. Fine, silty, grey-green sand.
- Layer 7.** Lower fill of concrete and stone drain, slightly above and below stone base. Grey-green fine clay.
- Layer 8.** (F11) Original, undisturbed ditch fill. Clay, ranging from dark grey to black. Very humic and peaty, containing charcoal, organic material such as wood and twigs, a very large amount of animal bone, oyster shells, leather, glass, clay pipe, iron, slate roof tile and post-medieval pottery, e.g. stoneware, gravel tempered ware, tin glazed earthenware, sgraffito and slipware. Also two sherds of medieval pottery (1 French, 1 local).
- Layer 9.** Dump of natural riverine stone and gravel mixed with clay. Orange-brown and stained by iron panning. 90% stone, 10cm³.
- Layer 10.** Dump of natural riverine stone and gravel mixed with the black clay of F11/Layer 8 above. 95% stone, 10cm³.
- Layer 11.** Natural subsoil. Consisting of orange-brown riverine gravel and stone, 10cm³.

Figure 6 – Section S4–S5

- Layer 1.** Limestone flag and concrete floor surface.
- Layer 2.** (F1) Rubble layer covering the site, consisting of redbrick, mortar, stone, slate and clay. Contained animal bone, charcoal, slag, iron, bottle glass, clay pipe and post-medieval pottery, e.g. black ware, sgraffito, stoneware, slipware, cream ware and transfer ware, etc.
- Layer 12.** (F8) Upper layer of fill from area inside the town wall. A dark grey clay containing charcoal flecks, some small stones, and small inclusions of slate, mortar and redbrick. Contained a lot of animal bone, some oyster shells, bottle glass, slate roof tile, clay pipe and post-medieval pottery, e.g. stoneware, black ware, smoothware, cream ware, slipware, etc. Also contained 5 sherds of medieval pottery (1 French and local). Very similar to F7/Layer 3.
- Layer 13.** Mixed dump/tip layer of redeposited subsoil with ash and charcoal flecks.
- Layer 14.** (F12) Redeposited natural subsoil. Orange-red, soft, fine, sandy clay mix.
- Layer 15.** Pocket of redeposited natural. Possible foundation trench.
- Layer 16.** Foundation/core material for town wall. A gritty, gravelly layer, grey-green in colour, containing 95% small stones and pebbles, 1-3cm³.



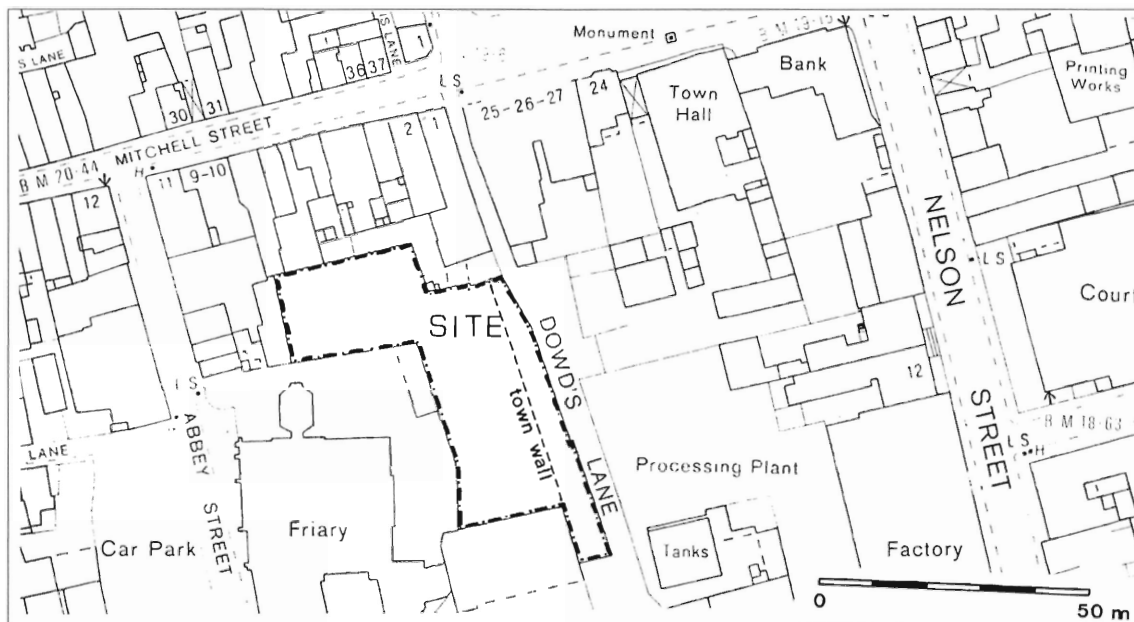


Fig. 1 – Location of site, Dowd's Lane, Clonmel.

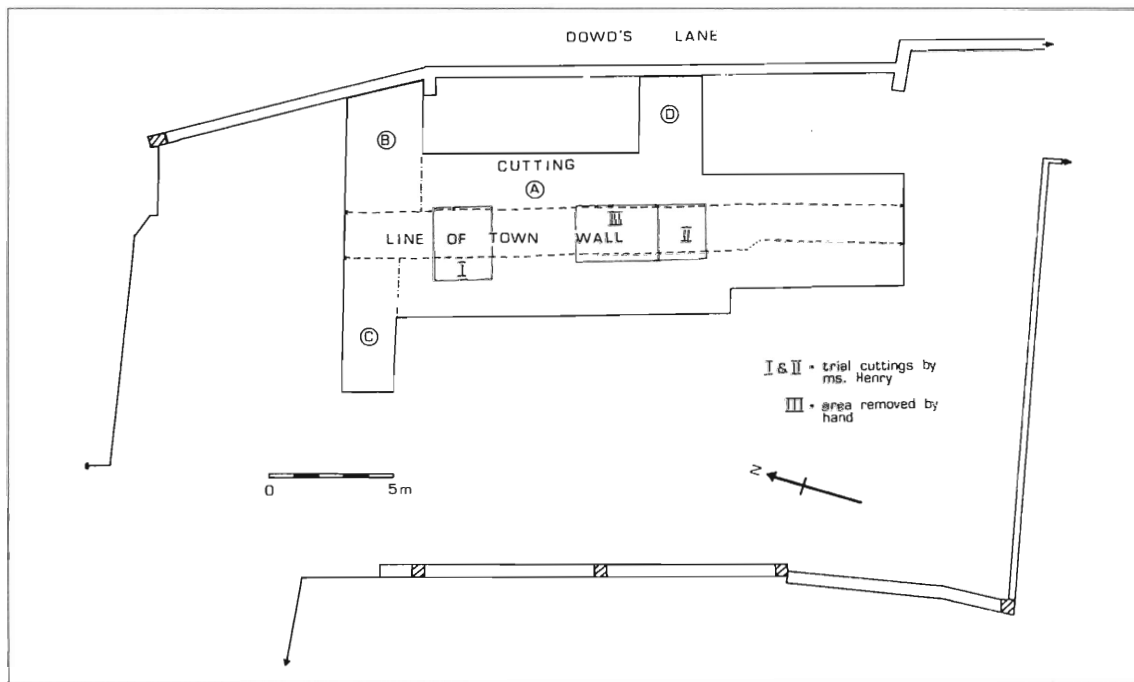


Fig. 2 – Site with trench lay-out.

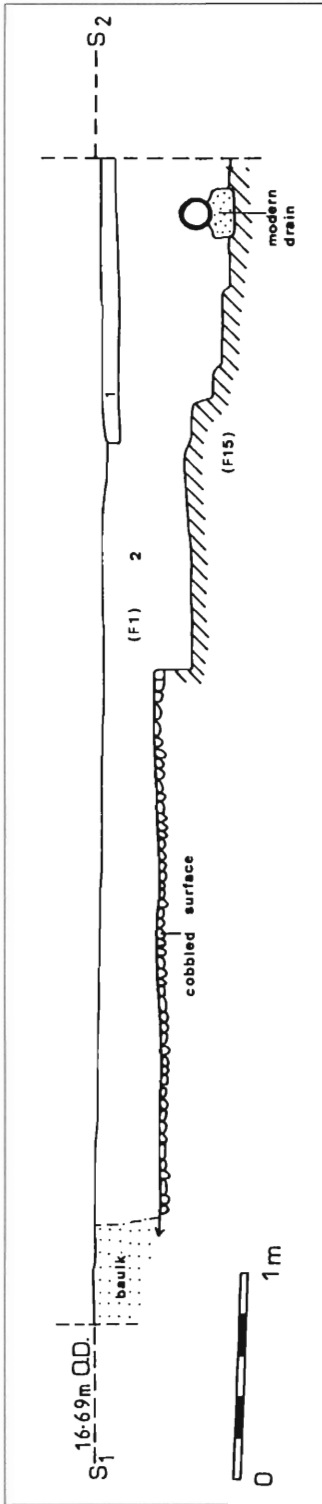


Fig. 4 – South facing section, S1–S2. Notes to Fig. 4 – Layer 1: Limestone flag and concrete floor surface. **Layer 2:** (F1) Rubble layer covering the site, consisting of redbrick, mortar, stone, slate and clay. Contained animal bone, charcoal, slag, iron, bottle glass, clay pipe and post-medieval pottery e.g. black ware, sgraffito stoneware, slipware, cream ware, transfer ware, etc.

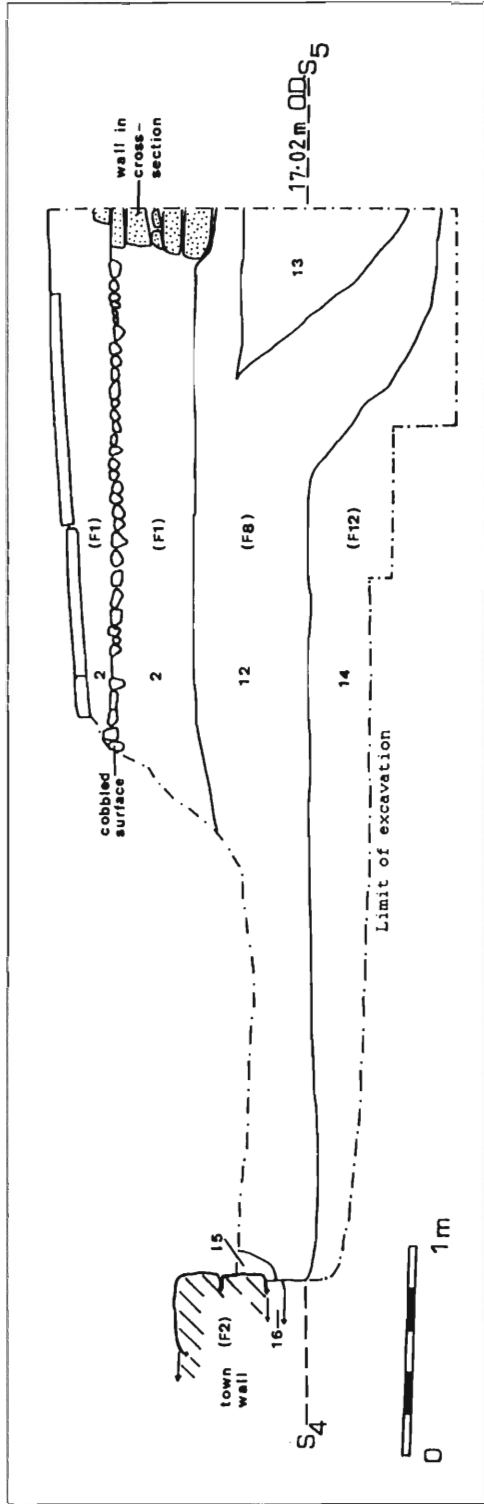


Fig. 6 – North facing section, S4–S5

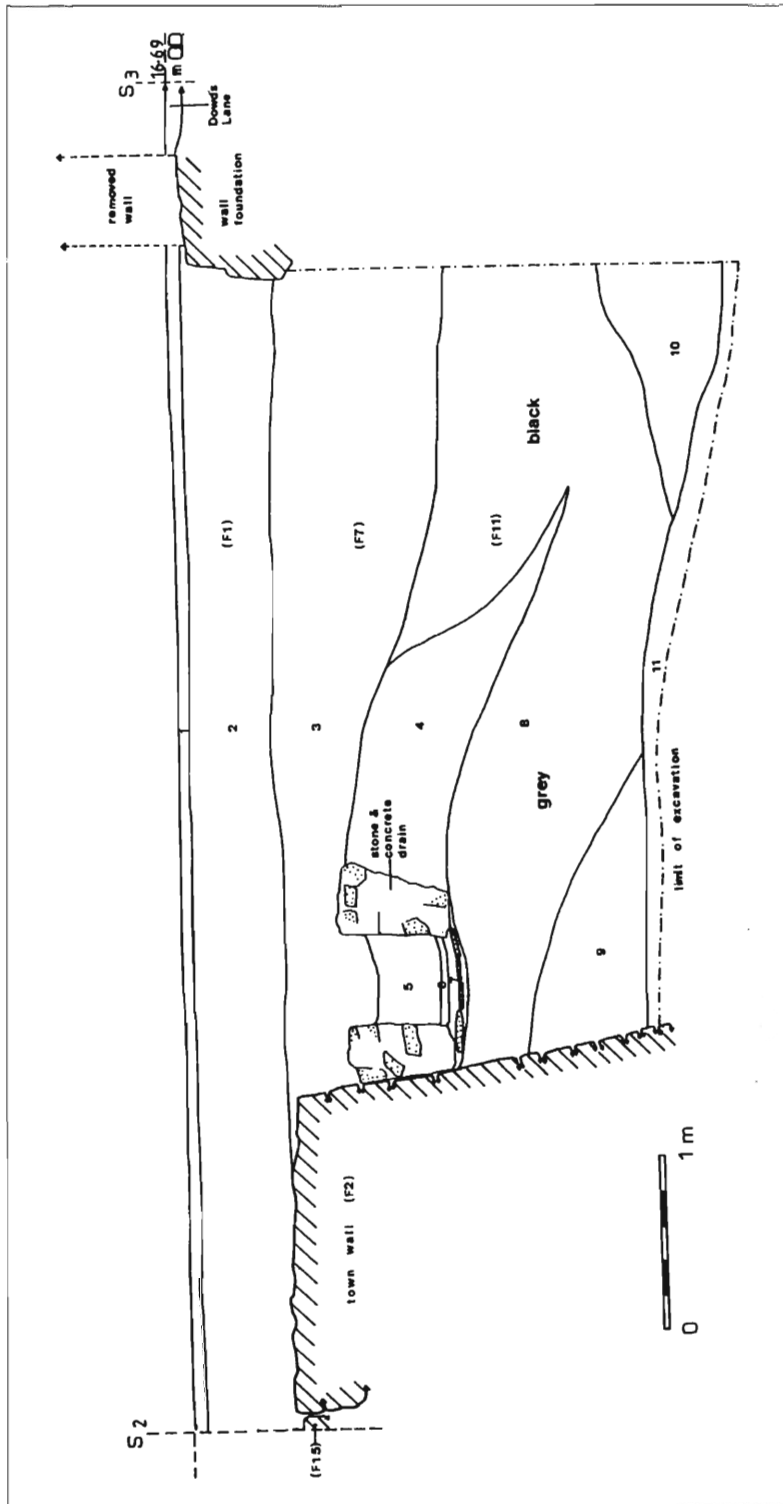


Fig. 5 – South facing section, (continued), S2–S3.

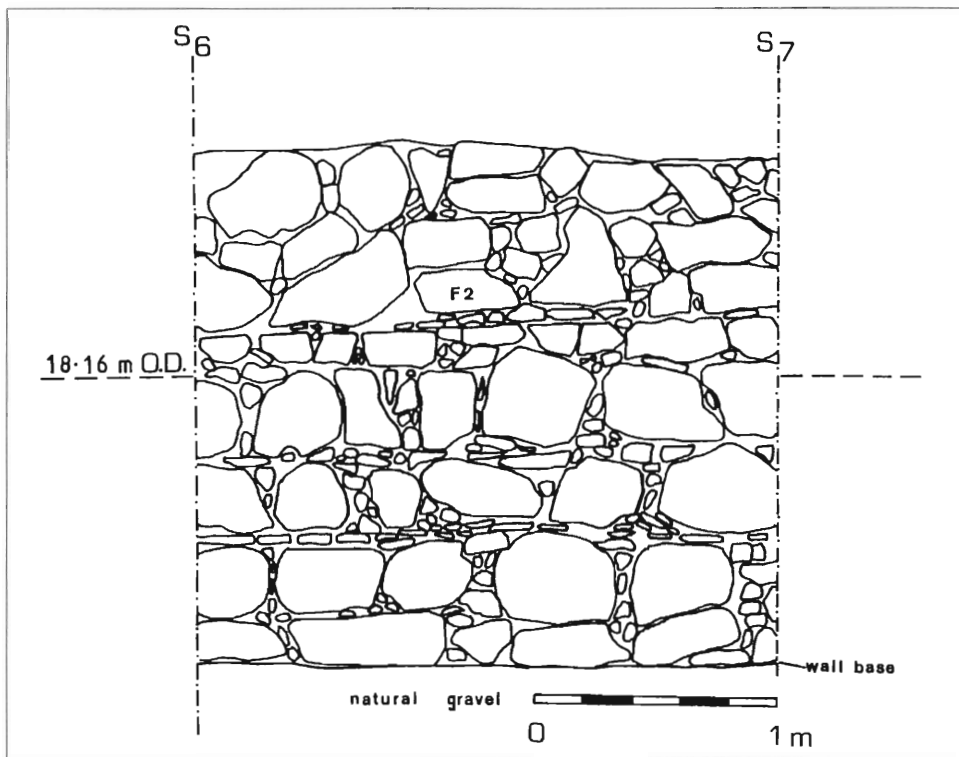


Fig. 7 – East facing town wall elevation, S6–S7.

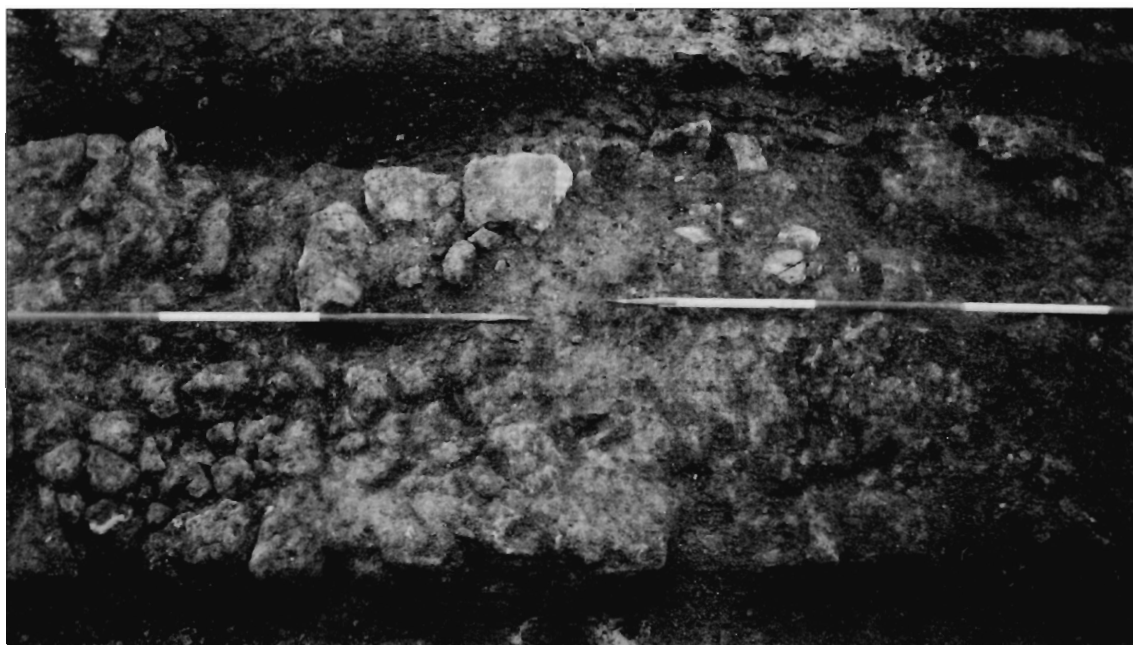


Plate 2 – Top of town wall, F2.



Plate 3 – *Drain/culvert F5, with cobbled area, looking east.*

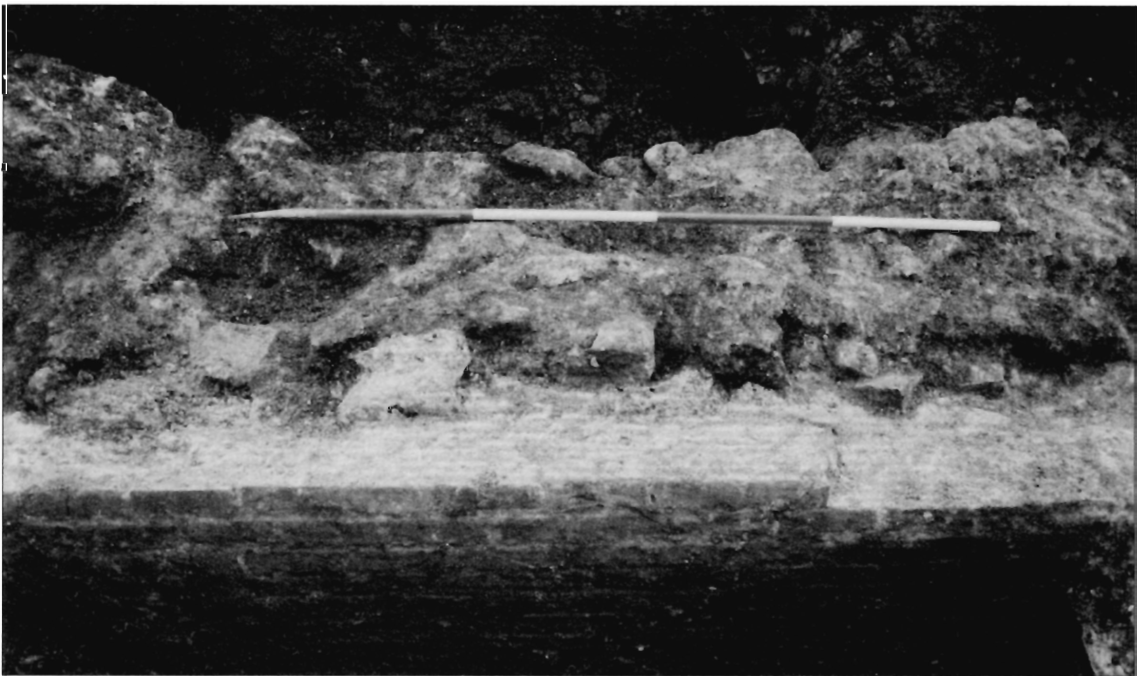


Plate 4 – *Redbrick structure, F13, built against outer face of town wall, F2.*

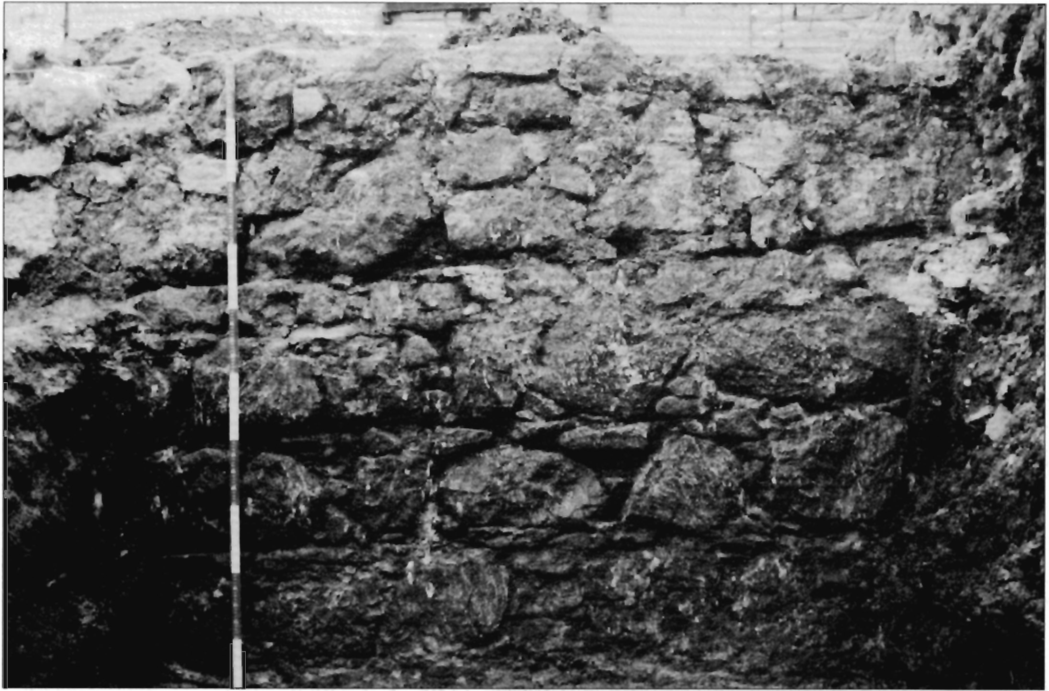


Plate 5 – Elevation of town wall F2, outer/ditch face, Trench B, east facing.



Plate 6 – Inner face of town wall F2, sitting on redeposited natural subsoil, forming a bank, west facing.