

## WC Cutting 4; buildings II & III

For GF numbers & sequence, refer to analysis and matrix undertaken by South Shields. The Building 2 (also called House 2) matrix is under Archive XXX, Building 3 (also House 3 or Building 4) is under Archive XXX. All baulks, except between t and u, were removed (see Fig. XXX).

### Building 2

Building 2, 25 feet east of, and almost parallel to, the long-house of Building (House) I, was excavated in July, 1961 and found to be of two phases. The building was 38 feet in length and 17 feet wide at the centre, as opposed to 15 feet at either end, the wall in the south-eastern corner being curved (all measurements internal wall to internal wall). Like Building I, it was built longways onto the slope, the northern end being cut, like building 3, through the clay with flints and down into the natural chalk.

The chalk was not reached in the southern third of the building, however, and thus here the floor was of clay with flints, whereas in the northern two-thirds the floor was of laid chalk. Much of the material dug up to make this level area appears to have been dumped a little to the east (see Cutting 5, p. XX). The fact that nearly two-thirds of the floor was chalk enabled two rows of post-holes, approximately 5 feet apart (north-south) and five feet from the walls, to be located with reasonable certainty, as well as a trench below almost the entire length of the eastern wall and one along much of the western wall. Two pits were located under the laid floor in the northern section of B2 (these two pits are discussed separately below). Immediately outside the SE corner of B2 was a horizontal surface of chalk lumps into which several sarsen stones had been embedded. Large quantity of pottery outside SW corner, near a possible entrance (could be cleaning' throwing out) and may explain **GF78** in Cutting 2D.

A possible Phase I of B2 can therefore be inferred by the discovery of these trenches, especially the eastern one. The latter appeared as a marked edge to the chalk floor about 18" from the inside face of the wall and was most probably cut at the same time as the setting of the floor. Furthermore, the trench was certainly earlier than the eastern wall as the wall stones were resting on about 6" of trench filling and the eastern edge of the trench was covered by the wall. Two post-holes were uncovered in the trench at the eastern entrance, but whether they relate to the entrance to a stone building or to a wooden fence is unclear. Dating evidence puts this phase in the 13th century and clearly therefore, as building and trench are of a similar date, the trench could not have been in use for a great amount of time before the stone walls were inserted, although long enough for 6" of trench 'silt' to build up, but this could have occurred after a particularly heavy downpour.

As with the post-holes along the western wall, this evidence may point to an earlier structure, probably made of timber, possibly a penning or a timber building based on sleeper beams. If this was so, it may be that the trenches along the west and east were caused by water dripping off the eaves of a timber structure and eroding the chalk onto which it had been built. The replacement building used these fortuitous trenches as the foundation trenches for stone walls.

The evidence does not, however, unequivocally support an earlier timber phase; only one pre mid-13th century sherd came from under the wall (**GF736** - as opposed to over 30 later ones) and the two horseshoes classified as 'Norman', one from the trench in the western entrance (**GF548**) and one from the trench under the east wall (**GF356**) have a long use up until the mid-14th century (see TWA Finds Table 14, Appendix p. XX, although the text says mid-**13th**, 8). An earlier, mid-13th structure may be in evidence which does not rule out a timber phase replaced by a stone one. However, it appears at present much more likely that the trenches were simply the foundation trenches for the stone wall, with the trench 'silt', as suggested, from a fairly rapid accretion before the wall could be built. The eastern wall may have been embedded into the side of the cutting and, being quite firmly in place, no foundation was required. Could the roof then have been laid across the cutting, from one ground surface to the other, as opposed to being laid on walls, as was the case in the rest of the building??? (see Gomeldon, WAM 80, 140).

The trench on the western side, along the inside face of, and sometimes under, the southern and central sections of the wall there contained a row of over twenty possible post-holes, many of which were indiscernible because of their close proximity. This trench could have continued to the western entrance where a similar trench was observed taking a fairly sharp curve to the west. These holes point to a wooden screen being here, possibly a fence of sorts or uprights acting as timber facing to a low stone wall, at some time prior to, or contemporary with, the stone phase of B2. Its precise function is not known however, although it may have acted as a temporary wall whilst the stone walls were under construction. It ought to be borne in mind, however, that the whole feature may be deceptive and simply be a result of water dripping off the wall (see Fig. XXX, Sections XXS-N & W-E(y-y) Archive). As the 'solution pipes' which confused the excavation testify, there was certainly a fair amount of water washing over the chalk surface before, it seems, it was roofed. This may possibly explain the trench 'silt' and the apparent row of post-holes discussed above. Why it turned west, if at all, is a mystery (weathering in entrance? porch, lie of the land?).

In early August 1962 a return to this area was made to remove some of the wall stones in the north and east to reassess the function of the trench and to ascertain whether further post-holes were evident. Several holes were uncovered in the trench which may have been holes for timber uprights. A trench was found running c.12" along the inside of, and parallel to, the northern wall in 1962, fill of round chalk nodules with light brown (?clay) around them. **GFs 701 & 704** from it (C13th) and possibly **GF713** (latter 13th).

Half way along the wall, however, this trench had become a 3 foot pit (see below).

Unlike Building 1, the sarsen walls stood more or less clear with very little tumble and so presumably the original height would have been no more than was observed at one or two courses. The walls were some 3 feet thick and well-built and, unlike Building 1 and Building 3, do not seem to have experienced any substantial robbing. Where the ground had been cut down to form the level building platform in the northern half, the stone walls were really revetment to this scarp caused by digging into the hillside and not outer facing walls. This would mean the roof, if of a thatch of some sorts as is most likely, would have helped the buildings to have blended almost imperceptibly into the surrounding countryside. The other major difference between B1 & B2 is that there was much less pottery found in B2, although other finds were as equally numerous.

### **Earliest features (pre-occupation)**

#### **Pits South of North wall of B2 (cutting NWd & h)**

The trench under the east wall (1962) was found to be in an area of disturbed chalk where, subsequently, a pit with a homogenous fill of large, mostly smooth rounded chalk lumps with light brown/yellow clayey soil and more or less straight edges was discovered. It had straight edges and a solution pipe running through its bottom.

Another pit was found to the west parallel to, and 1 foot from, the inside of the northern wall, with an identical fill. This pit, initially believed to be the trench on the inside of the northern wall (which it could still be in the east) stopped about half way along the wall, by which time it was some 3 feet deep into the chalk.

Neither pit appeared at the time to have been cut down through the upper layers, although the late medieval and early modern sherds from the top two inches of the pit fill indicate that the pits must have been cut through the hard chalk floor and are thus later than the stone phase. However, the site notes clearly state that these two features were not noted in the previous year's excavations and these pits definitely did not cut through the overlying material evinced the previous year. There is a suggestion that these sherds had been worm sorted down or trodden into the pits in 1961 when this area was covered by spoil from the house excavation. The sherds were only in the top 2" of the pit fillings so this could be the case. **GF763** came from lower down in the pit, but is not on pottery report. The pits ?must have been filled in before the house was built and possibly just before, as inside face of wall respects lip of pit. Earliest features in Cutting 4. PH1E appears to be a later feature, which was inserted into this pit.

Excavated in 1962. A different pit to the 'loo', c. 3' in depth, 7' across top. Had an homogeneous fill of large rounded chalk lumps with light brown, yellowish

clayey soil. Inside B2. (See Archive XXX). See above for discussion. Initial analysis points to a post-medieval pit.

**GF392**, 13th C sherds. Filling of depression in SW corner of 4NEh, corresponds to pit/ PH1E.

**GF714**, 'Sherd'. NE corner, in clay & chalk mix in apparent hole. C13th sherd.

**GF731**, 'Sherds'. Chalk infill of pit. 2" below top of chalk at pit edge. 13thC sherd, MCP sherd & EMOD.

**GF737**, 'Sherd'. Top of pit fill.

**GF763**, 'Sherd'. 1' below level of chalk in pit filling.

### Trench

**GF356**, 13th sherd, Norman horseshoe, CU alloy rod frag.

**GF376**, 13th sherd,

**GF393**

**GF423**, 13th sherd

**GF438**, 13th sherd

**GF477**, 13th sherd

**GF547**, Norman horseshoe

**GF548**, 13th sherds, Norman horseshoe

**GF671**, 13th sherd

**GF701**, 13th sherds

**GF704**, 13th sherd

### Under wall

**GF531**, 13th sherd

**GF702**, 13th sherds

**GF736**, 13th sherd, one EG late 12th - early 13th

### Under floor

**GF359**, 13th sherd, iron nail shank

### Postholes

See Fig. XXX & Archive XXX. Two more or less parallel rows of 6 'named' post-holes, 5 feet apart (N-S), 10-12 foot apart in the centre (E-W), 5 foot from walls. 1 RB sherd, 8 X 13thC sherds & 2 MCP late 14th C sherds. Indicates PH1E in NWd & NEh is from later activity, associated with fire?; temporary shelter? **GF497** (PH4W) had 1 piece of elder charcoal in it (TWA, Table 27).

**GF375**, fill of 'post-footing', probably PH marked on plan. In SEf.

**GF403**, fill of 'post-footing', probably PH marked on plan. In NEg.

**GF395**, filling of unspecified PH in NWc (?either 2W or 3W)

**GF463**, filling of PH in south east corner of NWc (probably PH3W). 13thC sherd.

**PH1E GF530** 13thC sherd & MCP. **GF564** in NWh. 3 X 13thC sherds, 1 MCP.

**PH2E GF496** (RB sherd) & **GF563**(?2nd PH 2E, means double PH). In NEg.  
13thC sherd

**PH3E** - section, but no GF

**PH4E GF478**, In SEf. 13thC sherd

**PH4W GF497 & GF562** in NWc

Is there any association between buttons (GF273, 284 & 298) and MCP flask,  
late 15thC, with posthole 1E?

## Occupation of B2

### Wall construction

**GF260**, 13th C sherd, cooking pot, inside wall, 9", SWa

**GF361**

**GF382**, EG jug sherd.

**GF592**, section through wall in N corner, between wall stones. 14".  
Horseshoe nail type 4.

### Floor

**GF252**, bone cluster, NEg.

**GF540**, sherds, not in TWA Report

**GF561**, iron U shaped staple (TWA, 5)

### Hearth/ Fire

**GF468**, charcoal, in extreme NE curve of building.

### Humic layer over B2 / Occupation & post-occupation

Many GFs, all 13th C sherds. The interesting ones are detailed below.

**GF236**, entire animal (lamb?) inside & E of West entrance.

**GF241**, post-med (17th/18th C) sandy ware. Horseshoe nail type 4.

**GF243**, MCP sherd Xfit 11. Interior of NW corner in d.

**GF246**, post-med (17th/18th C) sandy ware. E of entrance, humus amongst stones.

**GF248**, early modern sherd.

**GF251**, 12/13th C nut.

**GF254**, pipe stem, not in TWA report.

**GF258**, nail shank.

**GF261**, pipe stem, not in TWA report.

**GF264**, heap of bones in SE corner of SWb on floor.

**GF267**, nail type 20

**GF269**, MCP sherd. Xfit 11.

**GF270**, EG sherd, NEg

**GF287**, EG sherd, in NWd

**GF289**, EMOD sherds,

**GF293**, Xfit 1, 13th C sherds of a bowl; with GFs 318, 376 & 512. Horseshoe nail, type 1, iron nail shank. Large iron nail, type 29?

**GF294**, MCP sherd, Xfit 11.

**GF296**, horseshoe nail type 2; 'Transitional', second half 13th - early 14th.

**GF298**, CU alloy dome ?button cover & ?button. Not closely dateable.

**GF301**, iron nail type 5. Above floor. NEg.

**GF303**, cluster of pottery in SW corner of B2.

**GF320**, horseshoe nail type 2; 'Transitional', second half 13th - early 14th, nail type 19. In SWa, 13", above floor. **GF523**, 2 13th C sherds, one MCP Xfit 11, 2 early modern (18th/19th). Pipe stem, not in TWA report.

**GF332**, Xfit 5. see discussion below.

**GF417**, knife frag, not in TWA Report.

**GF428**, clay pipe stem (not in TWA Report), EG jug sherd.

**GF434**, whetstone, on floor  
**GF453**, iron rod not in Report  
**GF514**, CU alloy small annular brooch with pin (TWA, 1)  
**GF523**, clay pipe, not in report, MCP Xfit 11 sherd.  
**GF525**, 1 RB, 1 13th C sherds, one MCP Xfit 11.  
**GF556**, iron hook-like object (TWA, 7, Fig 5, 41).

### **Humic layer outside B2 / Occupation & post-occupation**

Many GFs, all 13th C sherds. The interesting ones are detailed below.

**GF234**, iron oxshoe? frag. TWA, 9.  
**GF263**, MCP Xfit 11, spout?  
**GF295**, Large nail type 29? 2 hazel nuts, 12-13th C (TWA, Finds 28).  
**GF454**, **Xfit 25**, 13th C jug, with **GFs 459, 544 & 546**  
**GF520**, **Xfit 31**, curfew, see Discussion in B1.

### **Humic / flint / chalk layer outside B2 / Occupation & post-occupation**

Many GFs, all 13th C sherds. The interesting ones are detailed below.

**GF284**, CU alloy button with integral loop, ?barrel padlock key, spiked and rivetted fitting, iron rivetted strap with white metal plating and grooved decoration - binding frag.  
**GF309**, horseshoe nail, type 4. LMED Raeren-type stoneware mug sherd. CHECK FABNO 57 for others.  
**GF312**, outside SEe corner, over 350 sherds.  
**GF313**, outside SWa corner, c. 350 sherds. Both 312 & 313 mainly cooking-pots, also bowls and jug.  
**GF316**, MCP Xfit 11 sherd. Perforated iron strap frag. Nail type 11, nail shank  
**GF317**, iron strap loop or fastener. 1 RB sherd.  
**GF318**, whetstone, SEf, **Xfit 1**.  
**GF338**, NEh,

### **Dump to SW (made in 1960, excavated in 61)**

**GF570**, CU alloy ?belt fitting (TWA, 1)  
**GF764**, MCP sherd Xfit 11

### **Discussion**

**Xfit 1**. A 13th century bowl; **GF293** (inside house in SEf, 10", with a Norman horseshoe nail pre-mid 14th), **GF318** (outside wall in SEf, 10"), **GF376** (in filling of trench in chalk along inside of wall in SEf, 9"-18") and **GF512** (flinty soil over top of ditch in Cutting 10/O5, 16"). Ditch in Cutting 10 is therefore filled in by this time. See Cutting 10.

**Xfit 5**. A 13th century jug. **GF332** (3 sherds), NWd outside B2 & B3 amongst stones, immediately above floor level, with **GF314** (16 sherds), in wall foundation of MN3 Cutting 10, see Cutting 10 for discussion.

**Xfit 11** shows late 15th C activity, is the northern end visible and re-used? or is this when stone robbing takes place for Cutting 10 ? **GF293** type 1 nail, from humic layer inside house down to 10", indicates activity before mid-14th C on site. **GFs 296 & 320**, activity late 13th - early 14th, possibly its demise?

**Xfit 25**, 13th C jug, with **GFs 454, 459, 544 & 546**, all Cutting 4. **GF454**, (balk NWc/d, on & outside wall, 8". 1 sherd), **GF459** (4Y, topsoil. To 6". 1 sherd), **GF544** (balk U/Y, V/Z. 16"-17". 2 sherds. With latch rest, iron ?binding & horseshoe nail type 4) & **GF546** (GH, N. end. 6"-16". 3 sherds).

**Xfit 31**, see Discussion in B1.

If Thomson's initial analysis still holds (letter, 16 June) where he classified MG sherds as latter 13th C, then B1 (and B2 & 3) have the vast majority of this type of pottery, indicating again its late 13th C character. Cutting 6 (House/B1) has very few MG sherds.

**GF221**, a copper alloy broken buckle compared to Sandal Castle c.1400-1450 (TWA, 1). This was found on the topsoil over the wall in NWd at 9". Could this be associated with MCP flask? PH1E?

**GF223**, PMed Sandy (17th-18th C), bottom of topsoil over stones in NWd.

**GF234**, the oxshoe, is comparable to ones from Faccombe Netherton date?? TWA, 9.

**GF273**, a CU alloy button, is the one considered post-medieval in date (TWA, 1) does it go with MCP or thimble ? CHECK this is correct button with TWA!!

**GF284**, although producing several finds of interest, gives us no firm dating evidence. Button (TWA, 1/2), Key (TWA, 7), iron fitting (TWA, 10 CHECK comparison to E&P 1991) & binding fragment X-rayed (TWA, 6). The close proximity of these objects needs further discussion.

**GF317**, (TWA, 9), possibly harness fastener, from a little after 1085. With RB sherd, chalk and area (NWd), could this be where some of the material from the pit/loo in NWd have been dumped and/or dropped? This would explain early sherd, late 11th C ironwork and chalk (natural chalk).

**GF382's** EG sherd, possibly from *in situ* wall stones, hints at a little early 13th C material here, possibly items brought over from B4 after its demise??

**GF514**, CU alloy small annular brooch with pin (TWA, 1), from 12th to 14th C. CHECK quantity of sherds **GF312 & GF313**.

**GF309**, LMED Raeren-type stoneware mug sherd. CHECK FABNO 57 for others.



**GF570**, the bronze ?belt fitting, early 13th to early 15th C, could be 16th, although evidence points to late 14th C to early 15th (TWA, 1).

Check evidence for hearth in NE corner (**GF468**), is it contemporary or later? The circular patch of darker soil uncovered up against the wall in the NE corner, was flecked with charcoal and red earth. When sectioned it was clear it did not rest on the house floor and that there was a possible cupboard in the wall behind it (whether these two features are related is not clear). Several pieces of glass were also found in this area, under the tumble from the wall stones down to the floor level. Charcoal was also found under a stone 12" to the E, 6" N., of this spot (**GF367**) and **GF468** was black soil, glass, bone & sherd from same area. Seems to indicate that fire is later than collapse of B2 (not on floor level) and could be associated with glass (& MCP, PH1E, buttons??).

### **Pit in House (cuttings SWb & NWc, baulk b/c)**

West half excavated 1961; east half, 1962. See Fig XXX Archive? Charcoal lumps & clay with charcoal flecks at bottom, c. 6" in thickness, top of layer is level (probably therefore deliberate). Stiff or sticky brown clay with small flints & a few sarsens over, with top fill of dark humus with large flints & stones: natural infilling. Xfit 10; **GF551** (depth 1'2") and **GF629** (2'1"), same vessel, may indicate pit used as dump or filled by sweepings. Pit cut into chalk. Oval pit, although squared in SE. Edge of pit 3' 2" at top, 2'9" at bottom. Depth; 2'.

Pottery evidence says 13th century. NB Xfit 10; **GFs 551, 560, 629 & 641**. **GF641** is from clay with flints & chalk floor at 23".

Xfit **606 & 78** is interesting; **GF78** is from Cutting 2 (B! north), 2D, SE corner, from black soil overlying hard-packed flint layer, indicates sherd brought in by mucky shoes?; ?black soil is earth which built up during occupation. The thimble (**GF606**) is a contaminant, and must have been uncovered amongst the earlier sherds and stones at the top of the pit. Interestingly, though, it shows the site was used, possibly as a rest stop and could one dare to associate the post-medieval button (**GF273**) with this thimble?.

Sequence:

**GF529**, floor level to 2". Above stones in pit.

**GF537**, 'Sherds'. Bone'. Between stones in pit. Humus & clay. 7"-1'2" SWb/NWc

**GF606**, 11" & over. E half. Xfit (3) with **GF78** of B4. Post-medieval thimble also found (TWA, 2).

**GF607**, same as 606

**GF551**, 'Sherds'. Charcoal. Teeth'. C&f. 1'2". Pit under baulk b/e (c?). Xfit (10) with **GFs 560, 629 & 641**.

**GF630**, E half of pit. 11½"- 2'

**GF629**, E. half. 2'1"

**GF560**, Filling of pit in centre of building 'near bottom'.



## Loo

### **Structure in NWd, NWd ext. W. & NWd ext. N. with Pit - the garde-robe?**

Excavated in 1961 in NWd, see Fig. XXX and Archive XXX. Suggestion of laid sarsen paving in NW corner outside B2. Filled with black, sticky material. Large patch of charcoal found in pit filling (GF444). Several phs to east and north of pit. Stones from wall of B" had fallen into south side of pit. WAM, vol 58, Interim 1, 111. 6' west of SW corner of B3, oval pit 5' by 4' and 1'6" deep, below clay with flints.

Pottery evidence says 13th century. Charcoal: 6 pieces of ash stem & 4 hazel (**GF444**) & 1 stem of hazel & 2 of ash (**GF483**) (TWA Finds/27). Prick spur (**GF422**) is comparable to (late) 13th to 14th, possibly 1080 -1150 AD (TWA, 9).

This is a 13th century lav, black stuff is good for your garden and postholes were for a screen.

### **Above pit**

**GF359**, 'Pottery. Nail'. Below level of floor beginning in black earth ending flints & red pit. 18".

**GF433**, 'Sherds. Tooth. Bone. Glass'. Flinty soil over & outside pit. 8"-10".

**GF443**, 'Sherd'. Flinty & chalky layer above pit. 8"-15".

### **Pit/ Garde-robe**

**GF415**, 'Sherds'. 10"-1'3". Top of pit filling. NWd N ext.

**GF517**, 'Sherd'. C&f on N. rim of pit. 12". NWd N ext.

**GF421**, 'Sherds'. 1'3" +. Pit filling. NWd, outside 'house'.

**GF444**, 'Sherds. Charcoal'. 15"-22". Filling of pit, c&f, chalk base. NWd N ext.

**GF483**, 'Sherds. Nail. Charcoal'. 1'3"-1'10". Chalk base. NWd N ext.

**GF400**, 'Sherds. Teeth'. 16"-21". NWd, outside building.

**GF518**, 'Bone'. 17"-18". Among stones in pit tumbled off house wall, c&f. NWd N ext.

**GF422**, 'Prick spur'. 1'10". Pit filling. NWd, outside 'house'.

### **Discussion**

See **GF317** discussion above relating to B1.

Cross-fit 1 shows ditch substantially filled, although remaining a shallow depression, when B2 trench is dug and B2 built, & cross-fit 5 indicates MN3 is being built at the same time as B2/3 is occupied or collapsing. Both indicate, therefore, contemporaneity between B2 & MN3 and possible filling of ditch.

