

Digital Chapter 10: The Glass Vessels

Part 2: A note on the window glass

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(file name : Ch10DWindowGlass)

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The window glass was catalogued in 1984 at the same time as the vessel glass. At that time we only quantified by fragment count rather than the more informative area count as was to become our habit a little later. Nor did we make any note of the precise colour. It may be assumed that most of the cast matt/glossy material was blue/green and the blown fragments light green. This note on the glass has been prepared in 2006.

In general cast glass was the type in use in the first to third centuries whilst blown window glass was a fourth century phenomenon. As can be seen from Table 000, most of the fragments were cast though there is appreciable amount of the later blown type.

Bath-houses required a lot of window glass so that light could enter the rooms and the heat retained. It is noticeable that both the bath-house in the fort (GV 76, TV 78 and BE 79) and that at the villa produced relatively large quantities. Between them they account for just under half of the fragments found but it should be noted that there is some evidence that not all of the window glass found was submitted to us for comment. In the site narrative for the excavation of TF 75, for example, it is stated that ‘a considerable amount of window glass was found’ (letterpress volume p. 103). As can be seen from Table 10. we only saw four fragments from this site).

It is of some interest to note that that approximately one third of the window glass from the fort bath-house was blown. This suggests re-glazing was taking place in the fourth century and supports the view that the bath-house continued to be maintained and used at that time.

<i>Site code</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Cast matt/glossy</i>	<i>Blown</i>	<i>Total</i>
HS	Fort Inner ditch	21	3	24
HS	Fort Outer ditch	8	13	21
HS	Fort other defences	12	2	14
HS	Vicus building 1	8	-	8
HS	Vicus building 2	1	-	1
HS	Other U/S	4	-	4
GV76	Bath-house	8	4	12
TV78	Bath-house	26	9	35
BE79	Bath-house	11	6	17
BB77	Corridor Building	2	2	4
TT77	Corridor Building		1	1
TF 73	Northern vicus	10	2	12
TF 74	Northern vicus	6	-	6
TF 75	Northern vicus	4	-	4
KF74	Northern vicus	1	-	1
HH 71-72	Southern vicus	8	-	8
HH 69-70	Villa	29	-	29
Total		159	42	201

Table D10.7. Roman window glass from Piercebridge (fragment count)

A full listing of all the fragments will be found in the table 'window' in the database