

Finds from Scarborough Castle (Site Code OSA: EVO4)

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The non-ceramic finds from this work at Scarborough Castle are of late medieval and later date. Given the lack of stratification only the knife handle and ferrule, both of which are potentially datable through their typology, are worthy of further work.

Copper Alloy

SF? Context 1001. X-Ray OSA:99:EVO4.1.1999. Lace chape 28mm long with 1.5mm diameter pin hole at wide end. The chape has an edge-to-edge seam and a flat folded tab at the end. The remains of a leather cord formed from a single strip of leather rolled up with the skin surface on the exterior survive within the ferrule (9mm diameter). The metal is folded over at the narrow end to completely cover the cord.

This is a particularly large example of the metal bindings used on the ends of laces of various types (such as silk, wool and leather) in the later medieval period and later (Egan & Pritchard 1991, 281-290). A leather cord of this diameter is perhaps more likely to have been used as part of an item of equipment than personal dress.

Bone

SF? Context 1001. X-Ray OSA:99:EVO4.1.1999. Handle from a scale-tang knife. Sawn from a metapodial/metatarsal. Four slightly tapering rivet holes, c. 2.0mm diameter, have been drilled in the bone (the narrower end showing) and three intermediate copper alloy rivets, c. 1.0mm diameter, are present. The handle is expanded at the end to form a symmetrical rounded end. Probably late or post-medieval.

Iron

SF? Context 1002 X-Ray OSA:99:EVO4.1.1999. square-sectioned nail of iron, 11mm square at widest end.

SF? Context 1004 X-Ray OSA:99:EVO4.1.1999. Cylindrical can made of sheet metal soldered together. The complete can has a diameter of 115mm and a height of 110 mm. In all probability this is a relatively recent can used for food or paint.

Bibliography

Egan, G & Pritchard, F 1991 *Dress Fittings* Medieval finds from excavations in London. HMSO