

VII

EXCAVATION AND SURVEY IN NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 1972-1973

Barbara Harbottle

THE THREE REPORTS which follow are a record of some of the work carried out in the City in these two seasons. Excavation in the castle ditch outside the Black Gate revealed part of a Roman road, footings of the first stone wall of the castle with the possibility of a gateway, rubble footings of the second, thirteenth-century, wall and the cellar of an inn occupied in the nineteenth century. Recent demolition and clearance have uncovered two stretches of the town wall, that on the east bearing the remains of a hitherto unrecorded turret (see fig. 1).

EXCAVATION IN THE CASTLE DITCH OUTSIDE THE BLACK GATE, 1973

In the spring of 1973 the Civic Services Committee of Newcastle Corporation sponsored a fortnight's excavation in the castle ditch. The object was to obtain information about the medieval defences for use in future landscaping of this area. I am grateful to my regular companions, Mr. Peter Clack and Mr. Christopher North, for their unfailing industry and cheerfulness in spite of some very cold weather, and to Miss Linda McKean (now Mrs. North) and Mr. Malcolm Dawson for their additional assistance. That the excavation occurred at all resulted from the enthusiasm of Mr. Ivan Stretton, of the City Estate and Property Department, and without the help and kindness of Mr. Billy Midwood, foreman mason in charge of the restoration of the Black Gate, and his colleagues, the work would not have proceeded so smoothly or in such comparative comfort. I am also indebted to the City Engineer's Department, in the person of Mr. Gordon Clark, for some of the photographs, to Mr. T. G. Newman for drawing two of the finds, and to Miss Wendy Greenwood (Mrs. Burdett), Mr. J. R. Perrin and Mr. G. D. Robson for their specialist reports.

Because there may be further excavation in the public garden outside the Black Gate it seems worth trying to outline the developments which have occurred immediately west of the castle. Although evidence for Roman occupation is normally found in excavations in the general area, no finds had previously been made in this particular spot. In 1951, for instance, Mr. F. G. Simpson dug a hole over 10 feet deep in the ditch, and a series of "closely spaced trial holes" across the front of the Black Gate from the Side to the railway viaduct, and reported that nothing of Roman date had

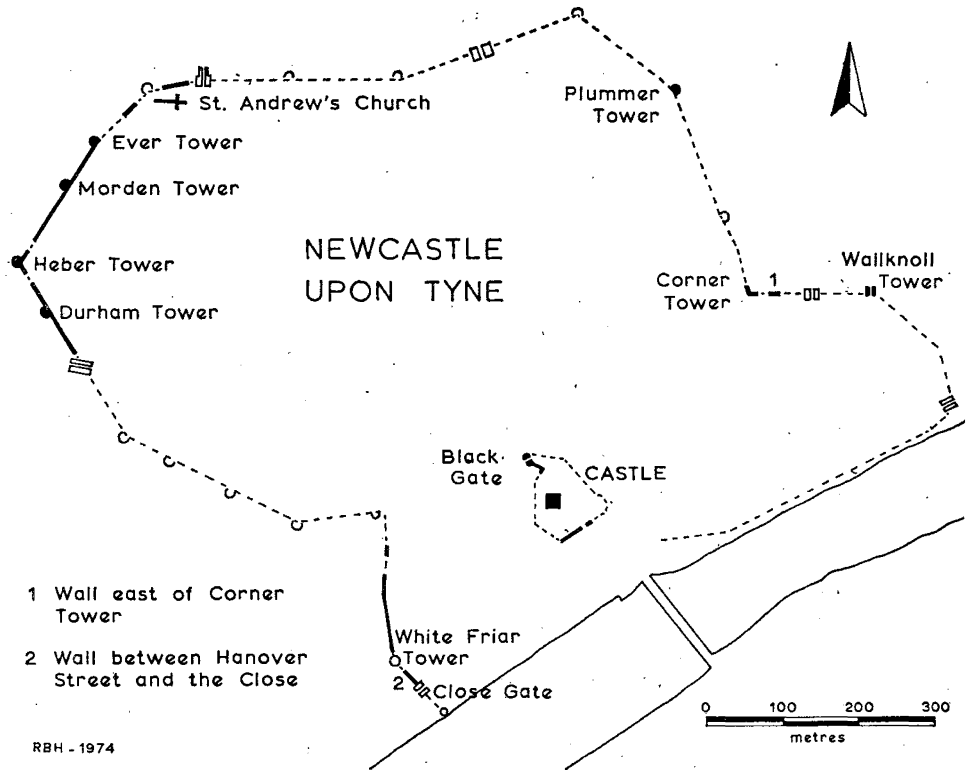


Fig. 1

been recovered.¹ The first certain event, then, is as late as 1080 when Curthose founded the new castle, and although no evidence for its location has been discovered it has always been assumed to be roughly coincident with the stone castle built by Henry II and John. Under Henry III the twelfth-century fortification was strengthened by the addition, at its north-west corner, of the Black Gate. Since so much of the stone defences survive just here the approximate position of the external ditches is obvious; they would have occupied the greater part of the present public garden. There must have been two ditches, the first (possibly even late eleventh-century in origin) being parallel with the twelfth-century curtain and probably now petrified as the Heron Pit and draw-bridge pit behind the Black Gate.² The Black Gate itself was

¹ There is no published report of this work, and this information is derived from the Minutes of the North of England Excavation Committee, Vol. 3, 12th and 21st December 1951. The Committee concluded that there would be no necessity in future to work between the Side and the railway viaduct. This volume of minutes is now in the keeping of Mr. George

Jobey, and I am grateful to him for drawing my attention to it.

² W. H. D. Longstaffe, "The New Castle upon Tyne", *AA*², IV (1860), 132-3, suggested this on the basis of the documentary evidence long before W. H. Knowles emptied the Heron Pit in 1905, *PSAN* 3, II (1907), 196, 219.

presumably set on undisturbed ground outside the first ditch, and would have required a second for its own protection; the existence of a barbican in front of the Gate, as suggested by Longstaffe and later by Knowles, is as yet unproven.³

Both main gates of the castle, the early Bailey Gate which was sited near the south-west angle of the keep,⁴ and the later Black Gate, gave access to a narrow street which connected the Long Stairs on the south with the upper end of the Side on the north. This street must have run close to the outer lip of the castle ditch, and its lower part seems indeed to have been called "the Castle-Mote".⁵ In the eighteenth century its southern section was known as Queen Street, the middle as King Street and the northern portion as Head of the Side. How soon houses appeared on the east side of the street and the ditch behind was filled in and built over is by no means clear. The area was probably still fairly open in the mid-seventeenth century,⁶ and even by the early eighteenth century the available maps show only one building south of the Black Gate, a Presbyterian meeting-house beside the keep.⁷ On maps of the later eighteenth century, however, the Black Gate was no longer drawn as a separate structure but was merely part of a mass of dwellings which clustered against it on all sides and spread southwards down the street,⁸ and by 1830 there was little open ground at all on the west side of the castle.⁹ Views of the west front of the Gate before the middle of the nineteenth century vary in quality and accuracy, but it seems that the roadway from the arch to King Street was flanked on each side by two houses and these totally obscured the lower parts of the towers of the gatehouse and the site of the ditch.¹⁰

The number of residents and the density of their dwellings in this part of the town reached a maximum in the early years of the nineteenth century, and from this time onwards the old houses and their poor inhabitants began to disappear as a result of redevelopment. The change started in 1810-12 with the building of the Moot hall in the south-east corner of the castle and the laying-out of Castle Street between the Moot Hall and the head of the Long Stairs.¹¹ The construction of the High Level Bridge in the late 1840s, however, was to have a much more radical effect on the character of the neighbourhood. Not only did its associated railway tracks sweep boldly westwards to the Central Station, and eastwards between the keep and Black

³ Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, 124; W. H. Knowles, "The Castle, Newcastle upon Tyne", *AA*⁴, II (1926), 51.

⁴ Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, plate opp. 98.

⁵ John Brand, *The History of Newcastle upon Tyne*, I (1789), 160n.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 160-2, quoting a survey of 1649 which is not easy to follow.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 168n.; Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, 138; maps of 1723 (Corbridge) and 1746 (Thompson).

⁸ Maps of 1770 (Hutton) and 1789 (Beilby).

⁹ Oliver's map of 1830.

¹⁰ Walter Scott, *Border Antiquities*, I (1814), opp. 8, an engraving by J. Craig, published in 1813, from a painting by L. Clennell. A framed copy of this hangs in the Joicey Museum. Also a drawing by G. B. Richardson, dated 1843, in his Sketch Book, I, 68, in the Black Gate library, published in *PSAN* 3, I (1905), opp. 135; and a watercolour by Samuel Bilston of 1843, in the Joicey Museum.

¹¹ Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, 73, 116-17.

Gate to Manors, but it also debouched road traffic into the narrow Queen Street. It was the need to widen this street, so connecting the bridge adequately with the upper part of the town, that was eventually to result in the present building lines and open spaces.

The improvement of the northern approach to the High Level Bridge was not undertaken until after traffic began to cross the river. On 9th November 1849 the matter was debated by the town council whose members were not in agreement as to the line the new road should take. Some favoured the direct approach from St. Nicholas to the bridge, but a few preferred an oblique line from the west end of Denton Chare. In both cases buildings would have to be demolished, and although the diagonal approach would do the most damage it would, as Sir John Fife put it, "pass through a mass of miserable rubbish". He added, with some perspicacity, that a new street would have to be made in this direction eventually.¹² It seems that this problem was resolved before the end of the year in favour of the first alternative, and the relevant Improvement Act received the royal assent on 29th July 1850, but the much greater difficulty of persuading the railway company to contribute to the cost of the new street delayed the start of the project until early in 1854.¹³

The first task was the assessment of the value of the property required, the second its purchase by the Corporation, and the third its demolition. Only then could the lines of the new street be set out and the land on either side sold for redevelopment. Not until May 1859 did the New Street Committee control the whole area it needed,¹⁴ but they had made a start on clearance in 1855,¹⁵ and the O.S. map of 1859 shows that demolition was complete on the east side, and on the west between Back Row and a point opposite the corner of St. Nicholas' churchyard.

We need consider only the clearance of the east side of the street between the railway viaduct and the top of the Side. The buildings which masked the northern tower of the Black Gate from its archway round to the Side were not required for the replanning and survived for some time longer. Removal of those south of the roadway through the arch began in 1855¹⁶ and exposed both the west front of the south tower of the Gate and the structures which lay against the outer face of the thirteenth-century curtain and occupied the ditch. Contemporary photographs show at least two buildings in this area, one of two storeys over part of what is now the public garden, and another against the curtain and its junction with the south tower.¹⁷ This second building was of two parts, a high section of three visible

¹² Newcastle City Archives (hereafter N.C.A.), *Newcastle Town Council 1850: Reports, Speeches, Votes, etc.*, 17-20. There is no reference to this subject in council proceedings during 1847 and 1848.

¹³ N.C.A., *Council Reports 1853-54*, 179.

¹⁴ N.C.A., New Street Committee Minute

Book, f. 52v., 31st May 1859.

¹⁵ N.C.A., *Council Reports 1854-55*, 142, 163.

¹⁶ *PSAN* 1, I (1855-57), 40-41.

¹⁷ Three relevant photographs have been seen. Two are in albums in the Black Gate library, and one of the two is dated 1857. Two copies of the third are in the Newcastle Central

storeys in the angle of tower and curtain, with a lean-to roof level with the sill of the third floor windows in the tower, and a lower two storey section against the curtain which, at this time, was completely enclosed within the buildings on either side of it. It seems clear from the O.S. map of 1859 that this second building was an inn, and that, as a result of Longstaffe's excursion into its cellar to examine the garderobe buttress, it can be identified as the Two Bulls' Heads.¹⁸ The landlord at this time was John Lynn, and his name is displayed on a board visible in one of the available photographs.¹⁹

The exposure of part of the Black Gate was met with enthusiasm by the leading members of the Society of Antiquaries who decided to try to persuade the Corporation not to rebuild in front of the Gate.²⁰ It is unfortunately not clear how far the Society was responsible both for the Council's decision to offer a prize of £50 for the best architectural design of the new street, with a clause requiring the preservation of the Black Gate, and for its refusal to contemplate removal of the building unless this proved unavoidable.²¹ The Society certainly thought it had had some influence in the matter, and this view is supported by a protest at the meeting of the Council on 25th February 1857. "Why did they not sell the property on the east side of the High Level Bridge approaches? They might get £4000 for this. Was it to be sacrificed to antiquarian research?"²² When the Council agreed not to rebuild in this area is not known, but that they did make such a decision may be inferred from subsequent events.

In the period between 1855 and 1883 there were changes in the function and structure of the buildings which remained south of the Black Gate, and those north of the Gate were demolished. In 1857 Walker and Emley, ironfounders, smiths and marble masons at 42/44 Westgate Street, took Robert Beall into the firm and split their operations in two to practise as

Library, ref. 4228, 8739. This one must be later than 1855, in which year demolition took place south of the Gate, and because of the noticeboard bearing the name "John Lynn" it should not be after 1866 when Lynn ceased to be landlord of the Two Bulls' Heads Inn.

¹⁸ Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, 132 and plan opp. 112. The cellar adds another storey to the building, and was the site of the excavation. It would be interesting to know how long there had been an inn on this site, but the names of the inns in the area of the castle are too confusing to provide a clear answer, though the late eighteenth century is a possibility.

1778: John Fife, Bulls' Heads, Castle Garth; David Bell, Blue Bell, Black Gate; *The First Newcastle Directory* (Newcastle, 1889).

1787-89: Mrs. Bell, Blue Bell, Black Gate; John Fife, Black Gate; W. Whitehead, *An account of Newcastle upon Tyne* (Newcastle, 1787).

1790: Geo. Cathrow, Blue Bell, Black Gate;

Joseph Dawson, Three Bulls' Heads, Castle-yard; John Fife, Three Bulls' Heads, Black Gate; *Whitehead's Directory for 1790*.

1824: E. Burn, Two Bulls' Heads, Castle Garth; James Guthrie, Three Bulls' Heads, Castle Garth; *General Directory* (Newcastle, 1824).

1838: Eliz. Kirkley, Three Bulls' Heads, Castle Garth; Robt. Elder, Two Bulls' Heads, Black Gate; M. A. Richardson, *Directory of Newcastle and Gateshead* (Newcastle, 1838).

Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, 121, discusses the position of the Three Bulls' Heads in Castle Garth.

¹⁹ From at least as early as 1849 to 1866 John Lynn was the innkeeper, *Ward's North of England Directories*.

²⁰ *PSAN* 1, I, 40-41, 1st August 1855.

²¹ N.C.A., *Council Reports 1854-55*, 225, 24th October 1855; *PSAN* 1, I, 43, 57-59, 69, 90, 15th September, 3rd October, 7th November 1855, 4th February 1856.

²² N.C.A., *Council Reports 1856-57*, 149.

sculptors under the name Walker, Emley and Beall at High Level Bridge end, i.e. on the ground between the Two Bulls' Heads Inn and the street.²³ The inn and its new landlord, J. Nelson, were not listed in the directories after 1870,²⁴ although the building survived and was perhaps taken over by the sculptors. In 1877 Beall seems to have taken over the business since he thereafter worked under his own name.²⁵ There survives in the Black Gate library a photograph which shows the condition of the area after Beall had set up on his own but not later than 1883. The Black Gate stands neglected, its windows broken and the top of its north tower patched with timber. The lines of the streets and pavements in front of it are those of today, but the lower parts of both towers are hidden behind hoardings covered with posters advertising, among other things, Reckitts Blue, a Venetian Fete in Saltwell Park with Fireworks, Hop Bitters the best Family Medicine ever made and, of course, R. Beall Architect in Granite. The houses on the north side of the approach to the Gate have gone,²⁶ and both parts of the old inn have been reduced in height to one storey above the cellar.

In 1855 the Society of Antiquaries had considered the acquisition of the Black Gate, either by purchase or on a lease, and had later made application to the Corporation for it.²⁷ The matter was not pursued further at this time, but it is not clear whether this was because the Society lost interest or the Corporation was unwilling to forego the rents or rehouse the tenants. The antiquaries were obviously concerned that their action should not result in twelve families, or sixty people in all, being made homeless. "The system of unhousing families for purposes of public improvement, and leaving them to shift for themselves as they can, has been carried too far."²⁸ The discussion was resumed in 1881,²⁹ and in January, 1883, it was reported that the Society had agreed to lease the Black Gate in return for spending c. £1000 on its restoration.³⁰ Work began in August under the direction of the architect R. J. Johnson,³¹ and was completed in time for the visit of the R.A.I. a year later.³² In this short period the Gate assumed its modern appearance, the most obvious changes on the west being the high hipped roof, the replacement in stone of brick and timber in the walls, and the new "Jacobean" hood-moulded windows on the third floor.

One must suppose that this masterly restoration encouraged the Corporation gradually to tidy up the area round about. The hoardings had been

²³ *Ward's North of England Directories, 1865-66, 1867-68.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*, from 1871.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 1876-77, 1877-78.

²⁶ The Joicey Museum has two views of this front of the Black Gate painted by John Teasdale. The oil is undated, but the watercolour, which shows Beall's name on the hoarding, has a caption with the date 1875. This seems to be an error, since it is unlikely that Beall's name would appear alone until 1877.

²⁷ *PSAN* 1, I, 57-59, 69, 171, 173, 192-3, 233, 3rd October 1855 to 4th March 1857.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 58.

²⁹ Black Gate, Society of Antiquaries, Minutes of Monthly Meeting, 27th July 1881.

³⁰ *PSAN*, 2, I (1883-84), 3-4.

³¹ *PSAN* 2, V (1891-92), 159-60, Johnson's obituary.

³² *Ibid.*, 39-40, 44, 62-63, 193-4.

replaced by low stone walls and iron railings when Knowles made his drawing of the Black Gate in 1886.³³ In 1904 the houses at the top of the Side were demolished and not replaced, leaving the north tower standing clear, and those which covered the Heron Pit behind the Gate were also cleared away.³⁴ Finally, further pressure from the Society led, by 1932, to the removal of the monumental masons' yard and the laying out of the garden between the south tower and the railway viaduct.³⁵

THE SITE (NZ 2503 6391)

The space available for excavation in 1973 lay immediately south of the south tower of the Black Gate and its attached stretch of curtain (see fig. 2).

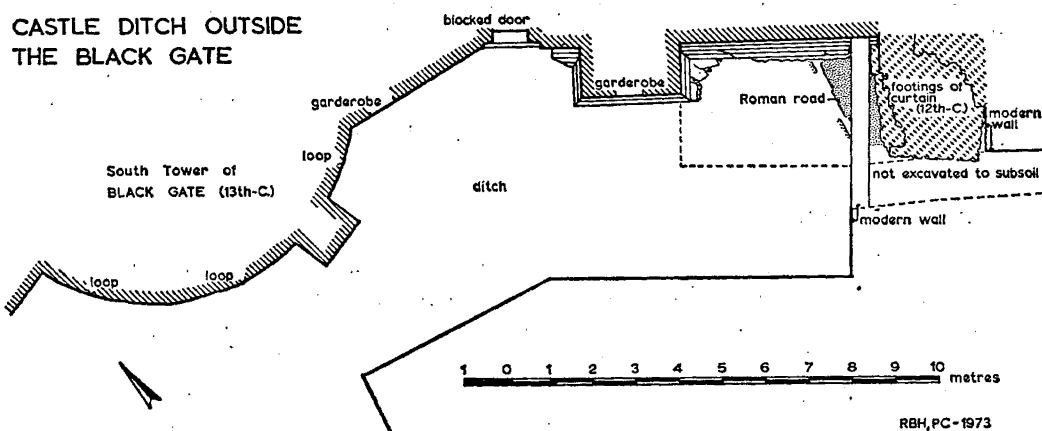


Fig. 2

It extended from the road through the Gate at the north-west end to a piece of newly grouted wall-core and a modern wall on the south-east. This wall-core rose from level ground some 2 m above a sunken area bounded by a modern stone revetment which was all that remained of the cellar of the Two Bulls' Heads. Beyond the revetment was the public garden, part of which had been fenced off for use as a masons' yard during the current repairs on the Black Gate.

Before excavation began the early curtain wall was partly visible in section, with core projecting from it at the extreme east end, and the thirteenth-century curtain almost wholly visible in elevation. The west face of the early

³³ W. H. Knowles and J. R. Boyle, *Vestiges of Old Newcastle and Gateshead* (Newcastle, 1890), opp. 66.

³⁴ *PSAN* 3, II (1905-06), 6.

³⁵ *PSAN* 4, V (1931-32), 6, and VI (1933-35), 6, 229.

wall, which is probably twelfth-century,³⁶ stood approximately 5.65 m high above the existing ground surface, and consisted of one projecting course beneath eleven chamfered courses, over which were another twelve courses of ashlar. Above the topmost chamfer the wall was a minimum of 2 m thick (see plate V, fig. 1). Nothing more can be said about this fragment until it is possible to disengage the medieval core from the later stone wall which has been cemented into it.

The thirteenth-century wall, which must stand almost to full height, met the early curtain in a butt joint, tight at the bottom but widening considerably over the chamfers. The principal features of this wall have been described and illustrated in the past,³⁷ and it is necessary to note only those minor alterations which resulted from the presence of the inn. A row of filled joist-holes level with the top of the revetment indicated the position of the ground floor above the cellar, and a second row fifteen courses higher was for the floor above, or perhaps the later lean-to roof. The reddened stones around the hole in the garderobe shaft illustrated vividly Longstaffe's "quaint fireplace", and on the south gatehouse tower there survived the blocked opening which once led from the inn to the guardroom,³⁸ and the angle of the buttress cut away to receive the later lean-to roof at this end.

THE EXCAVATION

The object of the excavation was to discover if anything remained of the foundations of the twelfth-century curtain where the wall itself was missing.³⁹ Work therefore began on the level ground at the foot of the upstanding core, the later revetting wall being removed gradually so as to reveal the early work behind it. It eventually became necessary to take out some of the filling in the erstwhile cellar of the inn and the trench was extended to the angle of the garderobe buttress. Finally the area open on top of the foundations was enlarged southwards as far as the existing masons' hut, and stripped of its upper levels.

The subsoil in this area was yellow/orange boulder clay. It must be assumed to be level under the Roman road,⁴⁰ and it certainly fell from south-east to north-west beneath the thirteenth-century footings which stepped down directly on it except at the angle of the wall and garderobe buttress where they were set into a shallow trench. The fall was c. 0.680 m over a distance of less than 2.500 m. It was impossible to obtain its original contours elsewhere since its surface was pitted with grooves and depressions which were filled with black gritty soil containing fragments of modern pottery, glass, bricks

³⁶ The first curtain wall dates from Henry II-John, and might possibly have been built just after 1200. Nothing was found in 1973 to clarify this point.

³⁷ Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, 132 and plan opp. 112; Knowles in *AA*⁴, II, fig. 32 on 49.

³⁸ Knowles and Boyle, *op. cit.*, 64.

³⁹ No evidence has been found to show when this piece of wall was demolished.

⁴⁰ As a decision had not been made about future conservation in this area the road was not sectioned.



Fig. 3

and slates. One can merely conclude that the ground did slope here before the additions of the thirteenth century were made.

Lying on the natural clay, and crossing the trench diagonally in a nearly north-south direction, was a level and very solid stone spread (see fig. 3 and plate V, fig. 2). This was composed of both large and small stones, well-compacted and with smooth surfaces, and its west edge was bounded by a kerb of large stones. Because of the curtain wall above the full width of this spread could not be ascertained; the piece uncovered widened from 0.300 m at the south end to 1 m at the north. At either end but not in the centre a few stones survived parallel with the western kerb, and separated from it by a drain 0.100 m to 0.150 m wide and a maximum of 0.200 m deep. A few flat stones on the bottom of the drain could not be interpreted as a continuous floor.

While nothing was found to provide a *terminus post quem* for this feature, two Roman sherds of indeterminate date (nos. 17-18) were found lying on it, and the stony brown soil (9) which filled the remaining parts of the drain (see fig. 4) yielded a few animal bones and Roman pottery of the late second to mid third century (nos. 9-16). An insubstantial stony surface (8), which lay on top of the principal feature and spread over the southern part of the drain, produced six coins, over fifty Roman sherds (nos. 19-34), a large number of tile fragments and some bones. The later of the two identifiable coins (nos. 72-73) was of Constantine II (337-361); the pottery ranged in date from the mid second century to the late fourth, though the bulk of it belonged to the end of the period. At the same level as 8 there was a patch of black soil (8a) which lay against the kerb where the outer edge of the drain was missing, and in which was found Roman pottery (nos. 36-39). Over all these layers, cut off as they were at the edge of the modern revetting wall, was the dark brown clay and stones of 7, which also yielded Roman sherds of the second to fourth centuries (nos. 40-44), tile fragments and bones. Layer 7 was separated from the footings of the twelfth-century curtain by a layer of stones, most of them small (6a). This produced no datable finds, and its original extent is unknown, but it was found to project slightly from beneath the south end of the first curtain and to curve away at the north end to pass beneath the foundations of the second.

There can be no doubt that the stone feature was part of a Roman road, though it is uncertain whether the drain was along the side or, less probably, in the middle of the road. The stones which formed its outer edge were similar to those in the kerb of the road, and since the subsoil sloped downwards from this point it could be argued that scarping at some date after the Roman period had removed the western half of the metalling.

The significance of layers 8, 7 and 6a was not clear. It seemed just possible that layer 8 might represent a poor attempt at resurfacing,⁴¹ but if so it must

⁴¹ I am most grateful to Mr. John Gillam for discussing the Roman finds with me, and it is

only fair to him to say that he showed a marked lack of enthusiasm for this particular idea.

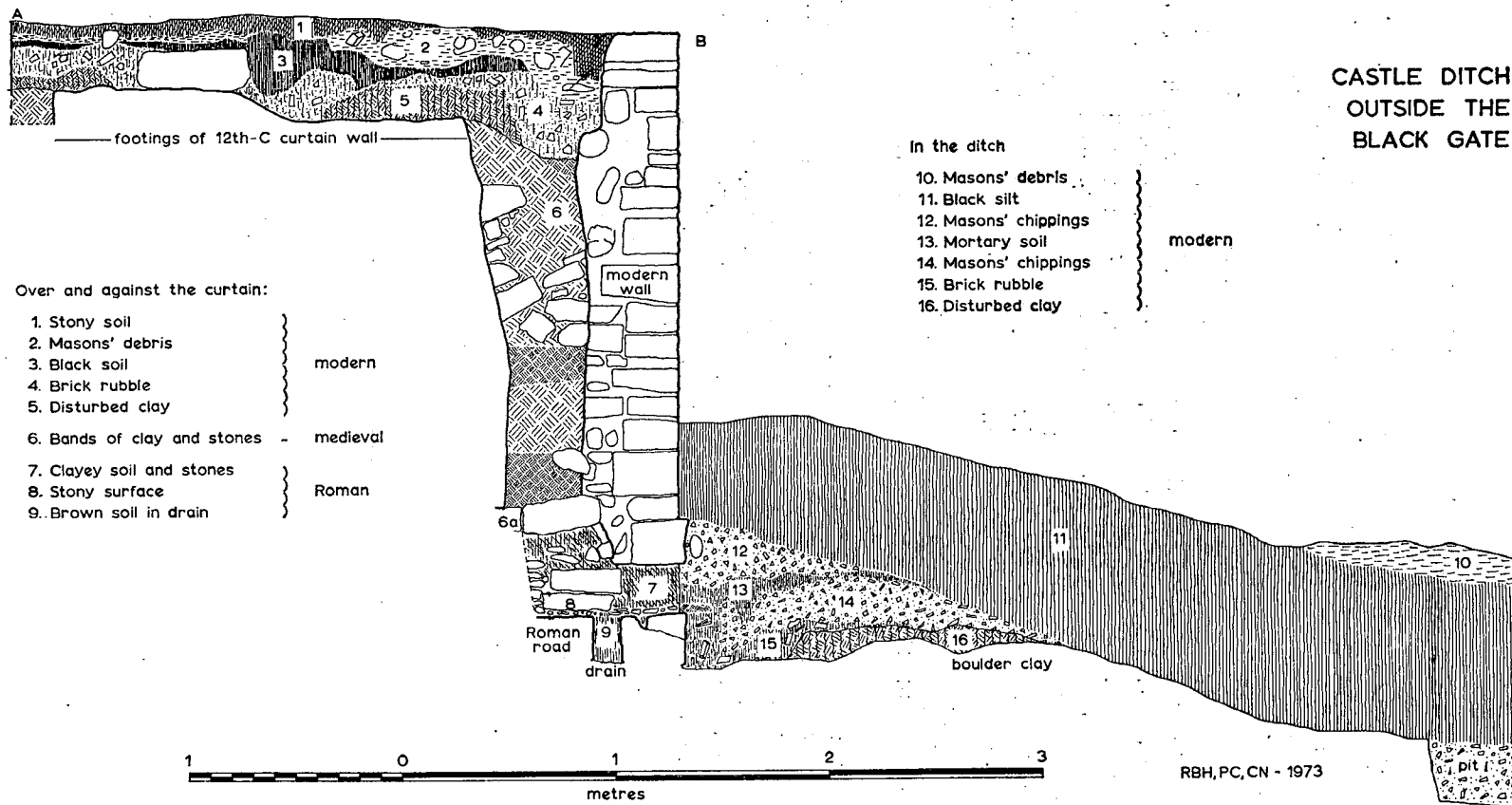


Fig. 4

have occurred late in the fourth century. Layer 7 was strangely deep and soft to find over a road and it must surely have been deposited after the road had gone out of use. It is thus conceivable that it was scraped up and dumped after the Roman period had ended, and this might also apply to 6a (see p. 69 below).

On top of 6a were the foundations of the curtain wall and the remains of a clay bank (6) against the face of those foundations. Both had been damaged by the construction of the modern revetment. At the south side some of the bank remained in position, but in the centre it had been almost entirely removed and at the north it had been cut back flush with the thirteenth-century footings. It is difficult to assess how much of the wall was lost on the same occasion, it certainly presented an uneven, raggy appearance when uncovered. The top two courses in the centre of the face were missing, and possibly others lower down if one can judge from the stones still projecting at the north end.

Since little of the bank survived very little of it was removed. Some stratification was visible in the form of bands of clay, ranging in colour from yellow to nearly black, with stones among them, and these strata showed particularly clearly on the south side (see fig. 4). A hint that the footings of the curtain did not extend much beyond the original area of excavation was confirmed when, in the extension to the south, the clay was found to stretch to the south-west as far as it was possible to explore. In this extension the modern remains and one layer of clay beneath was removed, and it was this top band of clay which produced the only finds from 6, i.e. Roman sherds (nos. 45-49) and seven fragments of tile.

The west face of the footings of the curtain stood eight courses, c. 1.900 m, high and was built almost entirely of smallish stones with little or no mortar between them (see plate V, fig. 2). A few larger stones survived at the north end of the face and in the wall core, which showed considerable traces of yellow mortar. The whole extended only 3 m from its junction with the thirteenth-century wall, and terminated in a square end 2 m wide (see plate VI, fig. 1). The east face showed briefly before running under a modern wall, and the remains of both now form a solid mass of newly grouted core.

Until there can be excavation south of the 1973 trench in an area which may show less modern disturbance, the relationship of 6 with the footings of the earlier wall remain uncertain. The slight batter on the west face of the footings (see figs. 4 and 5) and the absence of any trace of a cut in the clay for a wall trench suggest that the clay was piled against the wall. In elevation at the south-west corner, however, the batter was absent, the stones appearing to rest on the clay, and the nature of the south edge of the wall seemed similar. In addition, one would expect to find foundations sunk well into the ground as it was at the time of building, and at no time to be free-standing; the structure does not now look solid enough for this ever to have been the case.

CASTLE DITCH OUTSIDE THE BLACK GATE

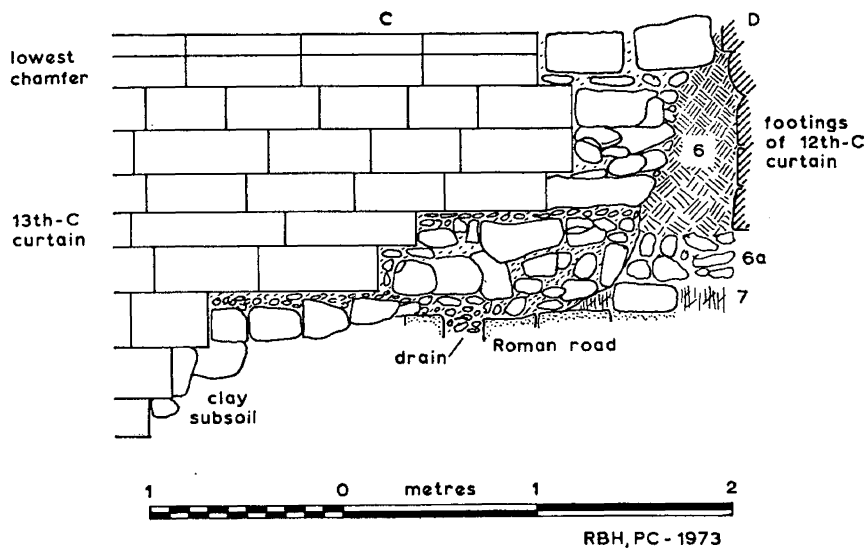


Fig. 5

If the sequence of clay before wall is found to be the true one there is the further problem of whether 6 is a single feature or a series of separate strata. The former is the more likely since the difference in date between the Roman pottery from layer 7 and that from the top of 6 in the southern extension is negligible if it exists at all. Indeed it would not be unreasonable to suggest that 6a and 7 form the lower levels in this bank. Finally, if bank it is, when was it made? Only Roman artifacts came from it, and yet if it is Roman it must imply extensive rearrangement in the late fourth century when the road was for ever abandoned. At the moment it seems more probable that the Roman material is residual and that, as labelled on fig. 4, it is of medieval construction.

The next event was the addition to the castle, in 1247-50, of the Black Gate,⁴² which was linked to the earlier work behind it by the stretch of curtain wall which formed the north edge of the excavation. Most of this wall was already visible, and it required only the removal of the revetting wall and modern layers to have its eastern end fully exposed. Level with the top of the twelfth-century foundations was the uppermost of four courses on the face of the thirteenth-century wall. The two upper chamfers ran from the garde-robe buttress to abut on and ride over the earlier foundations; the two lower

⁴² R. Allen Brown, H. M. Colvin and A. J. Taylor, *The History of the King's Works*, II (1963), 747.

ones formed the base courses of the garderobe buttress and were then brought vertically up the wall to the higher pair. The third chamfer appeared to have been cut off to accommodate the end of the modern revetment and the fourth stopped to become square in section c. 0.500 m short of the revetment. Below the bottom chamfer the ashlar courses were stepped down westwards, first over solid rubble and mortar of slight projection and then directly on to the subsoil (see fig. 5). In the angle of the curtain and garderobe buttress the lowest ashlar course, by then a base chamfer, rested on protruding stone foundations which were the only part of the wall set into a trench. The rubble and mortar section of the wall face climbed from the natural clay to rest on the sides of the drain, into which it was packed down, and then over the layers immediately above the road. This section of the wall was of interest both because it had been built against the remnant of the clay bank and so did not meet the twelfth-century foundations, and because its roughness suggested it was not meant to be seen and had originally been hidden by the bank.

There followed a gap of some six hundred years in the stratification; the layers above the subsoil west of the revetting wall, and over 6 and the footings of the early curtain to the east, all dated from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Removal of modern debris in the southern extension revealed a narrow north-south wall bonded with hard white cement, and to the east a brick floor. Immediately beneath both was the top of the clay (6); no other floor surfaces or structures were encountered. Layers 5 and 4 on top of the curtain footings were probably the result of the construction of the modern revetting wall, 4 being a filling both of the irregularities of the medieval foundations and of the gap left between them and the revetment. The latter was built almost entirely of stone, though it did include a few bricks, and was very solidly bonded with the same type of hard white cement mentioned above which adhered to some of the masonry of both medieval walls. Layer 3, in which was found bits of linoleum, was perhaps topsoil at one time since the material over it appeared to have accumulated during the recent repairs to the Black Gate.

To the east the first deposit on the subsoil was in the form of thin patchy black grit, with fragments of slates, bricks and window glass, and this was covered by disturbed clay (16) which had probably been dug out of a shallow gully running downhill to the east. Layer 15, like those above, spread diagonally across the trench from the south section to the garderobe buttress, and postdated the vertical cut made in the material lying on the Roman road. Layer 12 was piled up against the west face of the revetment, and over all was thick silt which sloped down to the sill of the blocked doorway west of the garderobe buttress.

This western area presented some insoluble problems of which the chief was the absence of a floor in the cellar, and even of a level surface on which to lay it. If the vertical cut below the wall marked the edge of a floor which

had later been removed, then virtually all the deposits in this part of the trench dated from after the cellar's abandonment and represented demolition of the building and the working of the monumental mason. Unless the cellar was floored at different levels the westward downhill slope would have to be the result of an unrecorded excavation after the removal of the floor and before at least the eastern end of the whole sunken area began to silt up. When the silting began would depend on when the cellar became open to the sky and this is not known, though it is perhaps relevant that Knowles did not show the thirteenth-century chamfered courses on his plan of the Black Gate.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that the North of England Excavation Committee adopted a very negative attitude in 1951 when they abandoned the idea of doing more work in front of the Black Gate. Although there were no startling discoveries in 1973 the Roman road, the clay bank and the abrupt end of the twelfth-century curtain wall all merit further investigation.

There is nothing useful to say about the road at the present time since we neither know where it is going nor whether it is inside or outside the unproven fort. Sadly it may be impossible to uncover any more of it since, assuming it continued for some distance in both directions, on the south it will meet the railway viaduct beyond the early curtain wall, and on the north, behind the thirteenth-century curtain, it will run into the Heron Pit and the drawbridge pit.

There must be a better chance of determining the date of the bank if excavation can take place in the public garden beyond the cellar, though here too the railway viaduct might prevent the cutting of a full section across it. If the bank proved to be contemporary with the early curtain then the idea that the Side might have originated as a ditch of the castle of 1080 would not be so wild as it now appears. If, on the other hand, the bank were found to predate the curtain then it could be interpreted as a rampart of Curthose's castle.

The butt end of the curtain would appear to be one side of a gateway and, if this is indeed so, further work to the south should reveal the other. Although the South Postern survives, and another is believed to have existed near the head of the Dog Leap Stairs,⁴³ there is no record of a third south of the Black Gate. It is possible that a postern in this position would be made redundant by the construction of the Black Gate and blocked up; it is unfortunate that no trace of blocking or road surface was found.

Finally, the open area of the garden must present a reasonable opportunity

⁴³ Longstaffe, *op. cit.*, 101.

to obtain information not only about the ditches on this side of the castle but also perhaps evidence for an abutment for the drawbridge in front of the Black Gate. There might also be a chance to establish, once and for all, whether there had been a barbican here.

THE FINDS

Because most of the stratification could be dated by the pottery etc. to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries some of the finds were discarded. All the Roman artifacts, and bones in Roman levels, were kept, and all the medieval pottery and roof tiles, though none were found in a medieval level. Of the finds in the modern layers the pottery (except from layers 1, 2 and the very top of 11) was kept, together with the coins, the bowls, stamped stems and a few other pieces of clay tobacco-pipe, and a few fragments of pantiles. All the bones, the metal and plastic objects and most of the bottle and window glass was discarded. Everything which was retained has been deposited in the Joicey Museum, Newcastle.

To demonstrate the range of material which confronts an urban archaeologist on a site which has been and still is a mason's yard, and which continues to catch and retain all rubbish deposited both by the wind and human agency, it is worth giving a brief list of the type of object which was discarded: drainpipe, scaffolding clip, linoleum, planks, electric cable, reinforcing bar, biro, leather gloves, shoes, woollen socks, polythene sheets and bags, bicycle bell, wire-reinforced window glass, bottles for milk, beer, aspirin, ketchup and marmite. Fragments of *Exchange and Mart*, presumably part of a mouse nest, were discovered in an apparently inaccessible part of the modern revetting wall. The time is fast approaching when it would be useful to know in which year some of these objects first came on the market.

BUILDING STONES

Built into the revetting wall. Nos. 1 and 2 were left on the site.

1. Part of a jamb, with external chamfer and internal rebate. Height 0.405 m, width on the face 0.250 m, depth from front to back 0.220 m, rebate 0.040 m deep × 0.030 m.
2. Part of a plain jamb with internal rebate. Height 0.250 m, width on the face 0.300 m, depth from front to back 0.380 m, rebate 0.080 m deep × 0.200 m.
- 3.*Moulded fragment from an obtuse angle, with traces of nail-head type decoration. Height of the surviving face 0.080 m (see fig. 6).

OTHER STONES

4. A small piece of whetstone was found in layer 8.



1. The junction of the twelfth- and thirteenth-century curtain walls

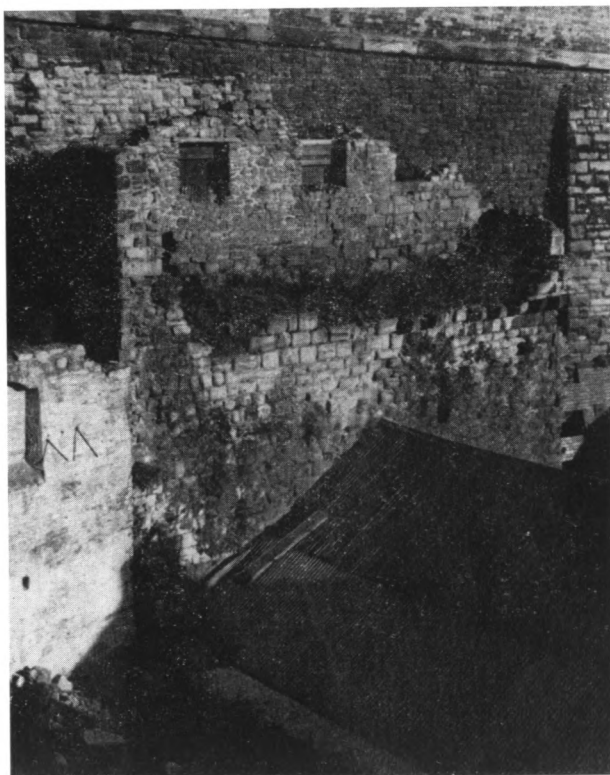


2. The footings of the twelfth-century curtain wall above the Roman road

Photos: City Engineer's Dept., Newcastle



1. The butt end of the footings of the twelfth-century wall



2. The town wall east of Corner Tower

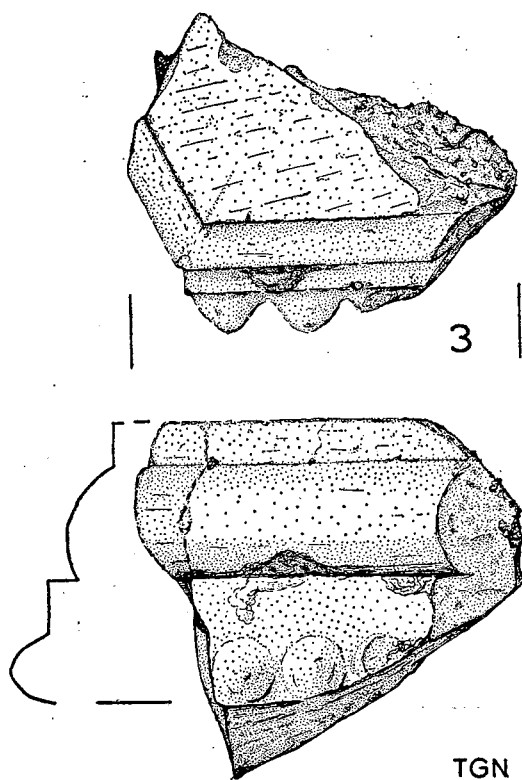


Fig. 6 (4)

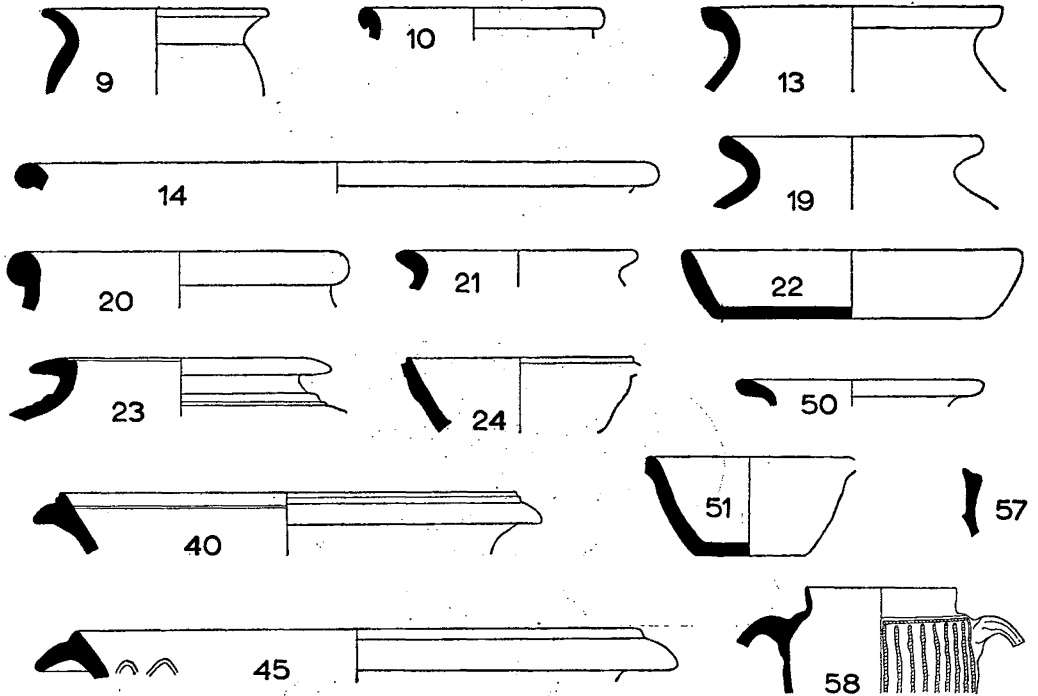
ROOFING MATERIALS

5. Slates were found on the subsoil under layer 16.
6. Fragments of Roman roof tiles were found in layer 6 (top, south extension, 7 pieces), layer 7 (12) and layer 8 (132). Conjoined fragments came from layers 7 and 8.

I am indebted to Mr. C. M. Daniels for the following comment: "The group contains at least 14 fragments of unmistakable *tegula*, but no definite pieces of *imbrex*, and no *pilae*. The other pieces are probably of building tiles, and there might be box-tile fragments among the thinner ones but without surviving diagnostic features this remains uncertain."

7. Two tiny fragments of what appear to be green-glazed medieval roof tiles were found in layers 5 and 11.
8. Pantiles (one black) were recovered from layers 4, 11, 13 and 14.

ROMAN POTTERY (fig. 7)—J. R. Perrin



JRP & TGN

Fig. 7 (4)

Little pottery from Newcastle has been published, so I have described every piece from this excavation even though many were minute fragments, and I have drawn all the pieces worth illustrating, including those from the modern layers. I hope, by doing so, that the report will be of value in the future when the pottery from other excavations is published. I would like to thank Mr. J. P. Gillam for his help and advice in preparing this report.

From layer 9:

- 9.*Fragment from a cooking-pot in dense black sandy fabric with a reddish layer under a highly burnished black surface. Black-burnished ware Category One. Late second to third century in date.
- 10.*Fragment from a vessel in grey gritty fabric with a darker surface showing traces of burnishing. Possibly Black-burnished Category Two, from the Colchester region. Late second to third century.
11. Fragment of the base of a vessel similar in fabric and appearance to no. 10. It may be from the same vessel.
12. Part of the body of a vessel with a grey core and brown surface, with vertical lines etched on to it. It is probably Black-burnished Category Two, with a parallel at the Guildhall, London.⁴⁴ Black-burnished ware Category Two cooking-pots with

⁴⁴ R. A. H. Farrar, *C.B.A. Research Report No. 10: Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery* (1973), 84 and plate IIID.

this type of decoration are not common in the North. An example from South Shields is of early third-century date. They are common in the Yorkshire region (York, Catterick, Bainbridge and Aldborough) however, where they are found in a late second-century context. A late second to early third-century date can therefore be suggested for this piece.

- 13.*Fragment from a type of calcite-gritted jar or cooking-pot. The fabric has been altered either in use or by firing and is now a reddish brown. There is a late second-century parallel at Milecastle 50. The ware may be of Midland origin.
- 14.*Fragment from a bowl in grey fabric with a grey surface burnished in facets. It is similar in form and finish to some Black-burnished Category Two vessels, for example Gillam 225.⁴⁵ Probably late second to early third century.
15. Part of an Oxford mortarium⁴⁶ in a fine sandy cream fabric with an orange-pink core. Probably early to mid third century and after.
16. Part of the rim of a castor-ware beaker in whitish fabric with a dark-brown colour-coat, and traces of a shallow groove 13 mm below the lip. Late second to early third century.

On the road surface:

- 17, 18. Two fragments from unidentifiable vessels. One has a light grey core with darker surfaces and the other has a sandy reddish-brown fabric with a black burnished surface on which there is a scored narrow horizontal line.

From layer 8:

- 19.*Fragment from a jar in a light grey fabric with traces of a grey burnished surface, possibly a slip. The form is similar to that of a Black-burnished cooking-pot. It could be imitation Black-burnished Category One. Probably fourth century.
- 20.*Fragment from a jar in a sandy grey fabric with a dark grey burnished surface. Possibly Black-burnished ware. Probably fourth century.
- 21.*Fragment from a jar with a now reddish-grey fabric, probably altered in use or firing, and a dark-grey surface. The clay is heavily charged with particles of grit and quartz. The form is reminiscent of Black-burnished Category One, but is in a fabric akin to Derbyshire Ware. Probably early fourth century.
- 22.*Fragment from a dish in Crambeck Ware. Whitish core, hard grey burnished surface (Corder and Birley Type 2).⁴⁷ Fourth century.
- 23.*Fragment from a jar with a dark grey core and a grey reddened surface. The form is rare in the North. It could be of southern origin. This piece is similar to no. 36 and is most probably from the same vessel.
- 24.*Fragment from what was probably a flanged dish. Reddish coarse fabric with a black-burnished surface. It could be Black-burnished Category One. Probably fourth century.
25. Six pieces of samian ware—part of a rim probably from a Dr 33 cup and possibly mid-Antonine in date, part of a base, and parts from four other vessels.
26. Fragments from five vessels in Castor ware—part of a base, part of a vessel with notched rouletted decoration, part of a vessel, possibly a flagon, with a row of four impressed dots, and two other pieces. All have orange or whitish fabrics with various shades of brown colour coats and date to the early third century.
27. Five fragments from a calcite-gritted jar, probably Huntcliff Ware.

⁴⁵ J. P. Gillam, *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery vessels in Northern Britain* (3rd edition, Newcastle, 1970).

⁴⁶ C. Young, "The pottery industry of the

Oxford Region", *C.B.A. Research Report No. 10*, 105-115.

⁴⁷ P. Corder and M. I. Birley, "4th-century Romano-British Kilns near Crambeck", *Antiquaries Journal*, XVII (1937), 398-413.

The remainder of this deposit are fragments from twenty-four other vessels. Those worth noting are:

28. Four pieces from a vessel in grey fabric with a grey burnished surface on which there are traces of a lattice decoration.
29. Three pieces from a vessel in a whitish fabric with a hard grey burnished surface, possibly Crambeck Ware. There are traces of a double groove on the shoulder and of a tapered neck. These join with no. 43.
30. Part of a base from a vessel in grey fabric with a grey surface. The clay is heavily charged with pieces of grit and what may be quartz. Possibly Derbyshire Ware?
31. Four fragments from the base of a vessel in whitish fabric with a dark grey burnished surface, possibly Crambeck Ware.
32. Three fragments from the base of a vessel with a dark grey gritty core and a red surface with traces of a dark red slip. It is probably a form of imitation samian ware.
33. One fragment from the base of a vessel with a dark grey core and whitish surface.
34. A fragment from the rim of a badly damaged Black-burnished ware dish.
35. The other pieces are in a variety of fabrics—sandy whitish, smooth grey and coarse grey.

From layer 8a:

36. Fragment from a jar, probably no. 23.
37. Six fragments from a vessel with a grey core and reddened sandy surface.
38. Fragment from a castor ware beaker in whitish fabric with a light brown colour-coat. Late second to early third century.
39. Fragment from the rim of a samian ware bowl, probably Dr 18/31.

From layer 7:

- 40.*Fragment from a flanged bowl in what is probably Crambeck Ware. Whitish fabric, hard grey burnished surface. Corder and Birley type 1.⁴⁸
41. A fragment of thick samian ware.
42. A fragment from a flagon (?), in thin, pink, self-coloured ware. Probably late first/early second century.
43. A fragment which joins with no. 29.
44. Three pieces of calcite-gritted ware.

From the top of layer 6, in south extension:

- 45.*Fragment from a flanged bowl in Crambeck Ware. Whitish fabric, hard grey burnished surface. Corder and Birley type 1b.⁴⁹ Probably 370 A.D. and after.
46. Another five fragments from what may be Crambeck Ware vessels—part of a base, part of a flanged bowl or dish, and part of a wall in whitish fabric with hard grey burnished surfaces.
47. Two pieces in white fabric, one with traces of two lines of red painted decoration. None of this ware is found in milecastles (except 48), turrets or any of the outpost forts. A late fourth-century date is probable.
48. Pieces of grey ware.
49. A piece of samian ware rim, probably from a Dr 33 cup. Possibly mid-Antonine.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.* For similar rim section see also P. Corder, *The Roman Pottery at Crambeck, Castle Howard* (1928), plate I, no. 7, and 26.

⁴⁹ Corder and Birley, *op. cit.*; Corder, *op. cit.*, plate I, no. 5, and 24.

From modern deposits:

- 50.*Fragment from a flanged dish or bowl in a sandy brownish fabric with a darker surface. Possibly Black-burnished ware or an imitation.
- 51.*Large fragment from a small flanged bowl in Castor Ware. The flange is now missing. Probably cream fabric originally but now grey in places. Brownish metallic colour-coat.
- 52, 53. Two fragments of samian ware—one possibly a Dr 18/31 with traces of a lead repair, the other part of a mortarium with small white quartz grit.
- 54, 55. Two pieces of Crambeck Ware, in whitish fabric with a hard grey burnished surface—one the base of a dish, the other part of a shoulder of a jar with counter-sunk handles showing traces of a looped decoration. Corder and Birley types 3 and 3a.⁵⁰ Mid fourth century and after.
56. A piece of a vessel in light grey ware heavily charged with shiny particles.

The drain deposit (layer 9, nos. 9-16) can be securely dated from the late second to the mid third century. These limits could be narrowed but for the piece of Oxford mortarium (no. 15). Mr. Christopher Young states that these were made for local markets from the early second century, and were not widely traded until the mid-third century, though some vessels may have been used in areas other than local before this date.⁵¹ However until more is known it is wise to consider this piece as being approximately mid-third century in date.

Amongst the pottery from the remaining groups those pieces which can be reasonably accurately dated fall either into the period from the late first and early second century to the mid-third century, or from the late fourth century and after. The other pieces are less easy to date but there are (still) none that could not fall into either of the periods mentioned, though some may be late third and early fourth century in date.

If, however, all of this pottery can be included in the two periods mentioned, there would then appear to be a break in the sequence from the late third to the early fourth century.

It is worth noting that the coin evidence does not contradict such a conclusion, nor does the evidence of Roman pottery from Newcastle already published,⁵² and it may be that the site, and perhaps Newcastle, were unoccupied for this period, which could possibly coincide with that from the end of Wall Period II to the start of Wall Period III.

This however is only speculation, and needs to be examined in the light of more evidence and greater knowledge.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY (fig. 7)

From modern deposits:

- 57.*A fragment of the upright rim of a jug, in orange/brown fabric with external dull brown glaze. Diam. 83 mm. Late thirteenth/fourteenth century.
- 58.*Part of the rim of a two-handled Cistercian ware cup (type 1). Late fifteenth/early sixteenth century.

Nineteen other sherds were found, and almost all were fragments of green-glazed jugs or storage jars ranging in date from the late thirteenth century into

⁵⁰ Corder and Birley, *op. cit.*; Corder, *op. cit.*, plate IV and 32-33.

⁵¹ Young, *op. cit.*

⁵² From the South Curtain Wall (AA⁴, XLIV (1966), 101-04 and fig. 7), the Gunner Tower (AA⁴, XLV (1967), 134-5) and the Carmelite Friary (AA⁴, XLVI (1968), 202-05 and fig. 13).

the fifteenth. I am grateful to Miss Lisbeth M. Thoms for commenting on this group.

MODERN POTTERY

From layers 1-4, 11-15, beneath 16, in the pit beneath 11 and in the core of the revetment.

- 59, 60. A fragment of the rim of a seventeenth-century slipware dish, and possibly a fragment of brown-glazed stoneware were the only early pieces of this group.
 61. The remainder appeared to be nineteenth-century or later, and included the familiar assortment of white, or blue and white, cups, mugs and plates, tortoiseshell or cream glazed mixing bowls, plant-pot type ware and glazed stoneware storage jars.
 62. A fragment of Dutch "gin" bottle on which the AU of NASSAU survived.
 63. Pottery marble, glazed brown and white, was found in layer 11.

CLAY TOBACCO-PIPES

Below layer 16:

64. Unstamped fragment of stem.

From layer 15:

65. Two nineteenth-century bowls and one unstamped piece of stem.

From layer 14:

66. Fragment of nineteenth-century bowl.

From layer 13:

67. Half a bowl, with a pointed base.

From layer 11:

68. Parts of two bowls, one being nineteenth-century or later.
 69. Two pieces of stamped stem. The legible one is by TENNANT of NEWCASTLE (1875-1925).⁵³

GLASS

69. Some crumbs of clear glass were found in layer 8.
 70. Bottle and window glass was recovered from most of the modern layers. One piece of amber bottle glass was found beneath layer 16.

IRON NAILS

71. Three nails were found in layers 8 and 7. The complete example is 37 mm long.

COINS—G. D. Robson

From layer 8:

72. Roman British Æ "Third Brass". Crispus (317-326 A.D.).

⁵³J. E. Parsons, "The archaeology of the clay tobacco-pipe in North-eastern England", *AA*⁴, XLII (1964), 254.

O : IVL CRISPVS NOBC

R : CAESARVM NOSTRORVM. Wreath enclosing VOT X. [Cohen 44]

73. Roman British Æ "Third Brass", London mint. Constantine II (337-361 A.D.).

O : CONSTANTINVS IVN NC

R : VIRTVS EXERCIT. Standard inscribed VOT
XX beneath two seated captives.

PLN in exergue. [Cohen 252]

74-77. Four other coins, probably of Roman British type. One could be Æ Follis and the other three Æ "Third Brass", but their condition makes a more positive identification impossible.

From layer 13:

78. A bronze, coin-like object, too corroded to show any definite form or detail. It could be Roman or post-medieval.

From layer 11:

79. Victoria, Æ Penny, 1890.

80. COAL, in small pieces, was found in layer 8.

ANIMAL BONES—Wendy J. Greenwood.

From layers 7, 8, 8a and 9:

(Pages 80 to 82 below)

Femur	epiph		F			
Femur	epiph		UF	W		
Femur	epiph		—	$\frac{3}{4}$		
Femur frags. ×2	—	—	—	$\frac{1}{4}$ shaft		
Tibia	/	—	F	$\frac{1}{4}$ shaft	RHS	
Pelvis acetabulum frags. ×3						
Calcaneum ×2	—		—	$\frac{1}{2}$ shaft		
Calcaneum	/		F	W	Length 11.45	Width 4.07
TEETH						
M ₃			WEAR			
M ₃ in mandible LHS			worn	3.35 cm		
M ₃			very worn	3.26 cm		
Decid M ₃ ×2			no wear	broken		
M ₁ ×2			very worn			
M ₂			worn			
M _{1/2}			worn			
Incisor			broken			
Incisor			inwear			
PM ₃			broken			
PM ₃			very worn			
PM ₃ in mandible LHS			seed tooth			
M ³ RHS			worn			
M ³ LHS			broken	unmeasurable		
PM ³			worn	unmeasurable		
PM ²			worn flat			
Decid m ³			broken			
PM ⁴			very worn			
M ^{1/2}			worn flat			
M ^{1/2}			worn flat			
M ^{1/2}			worn			
maxilla frag.			just wear			
			no teeth			

SHEEP/GOAT

BONE	PROX.	DIST.	FUSION/WEAR	CONDITION	AGE AND DIMENSIONS
Femur		epiph	UF	whole epiph	less than 3-3½ years
Femur	—	—	—	¾ shaft	—
Rib 3 frags.	—	—	—	Broken	—
Metacarpal	/broken	—	Prox fused	½ shaft	unmeasurable
Vert frag.					
Mandible frag.					
+PM ₃					quite worn LHS
M ₁ or ₂					worn
Frag. atlas					
Ulna	broken	broken	—	½ shaft	—

EQUUS

Metatarsal	/	/	F	W	<i>Prox W</i> 3.89	<i>Prox t epiph</i> 3.44 cm
					<i>Dist W</i> 3.89	<i>Dist t epiph</i> 2.96 cm
					Length—25.1 cm	

THE TOWN WALL

Soon after World War II Newcastle Corporation began an extensive programme of conservation of the town wall:⁵⁴ in 1968 the work ended with the consolidation of the short stretch on the south side of Forth Street; on that occasion in collaboration with the then Ministry of Public Building and Works.⁵⁵ Two other sections of the defences survive but have not yet been treated, and since their existence and visibility is not widely known it seems desirable to put them on record.

1. EAST OF THE CORNER TOWER (NZ 2533 6415)

The Corner Tower formed the eastern re-entrant of the town's defences, and from it the wall ran eastwards downhill to Pandon Burn and Pandon Gate and thence uphill to Wallknoll Tower. While much of this section was destroyed by the construction of City Road in 1881 one piece survived, and was noted with delight by Hooppell at "the end of Wheatley's iron warehouse in Stock Bridge".⁵⁶ Another observer of the scene was Sheriton Holmes who, pained by Hooppell's rival presence and prompt report, delayed for several years the publication of his own comments.⁵⁷ He too recorded that "a portion of the wall a little further on from the Corner Tower forms the lower part of the end of a large warehouse". After recent alterations and demolition this fragment is once again partially visible, and may be safely observed from derelict ground on the east side of the Croft Stairs (see plate VI, fig. 2).

The remains consist of a stretch of wall, 12 m long and a minimum of 2.100 m wide, with its eastern end broken off so close to the great retaining wall of City Road that it is barely possible to squeeze between the two. Its west end is separated by a gap of some 12½ m from the east end of the wall attached to the Corner Tower and is 21 m east of the re-entrant angle of the tower itself. Built of ashlar in courses c. 0.250 m high, and very weathered and blackened on the north face, it appears to stand almost to full height and to lack on the front little more than the coping of the parapet. This, which is 0.560 m thick, contains stonework of two periods, the bottom half (1.270 m) being medieval, the top probably nineteenth-century and built of small, roughly coursed rubble with windows. It must be emphasised that it is impossible to obtain accurate measurements at this time, and that the accom-

⁵⁴ *PSAN* 5, I (1951-56), 105-07.

⁵⁵ *AA*⁴, XLVII (1969), 85-87.

⁵⁶ Rev. R. E. Hooppell, "The Town Wall of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in Pandon Dene", *AA*², XI (1886), 236-9.

⁵⁷ S. Holmes, "The Walls of Newcastle-upon-Tyne", *AA*², XVIII (1896), 22-23 (for the Pandon area).

panying plan (fig. 8) is only an interim statement.⁵⁸ The ground level on the north side is very high, the parapet walk cannot be reached with safety, and much of the south face of the wall is hidden by the pitched roof of the garage of Manor Motors. In spite of these handicaps it is possible to add something to Hooppell's description of the north face. He does not appear to have seen the south side, indeed it may have been inaccessible, and Holmes does not make a specific comment about this stretch.

THE TOWN WALL EAST OF THE CORNER TOWER

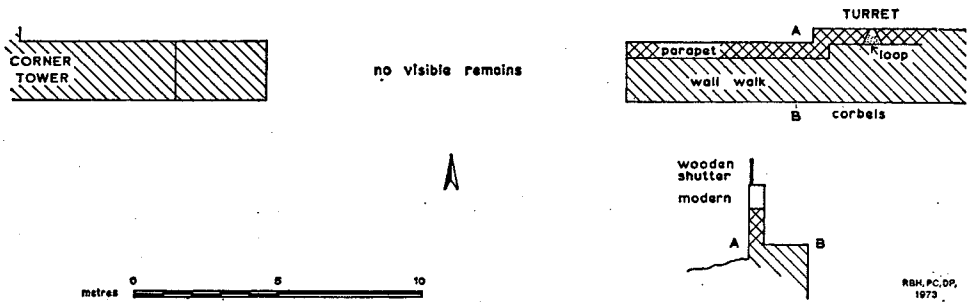


Fig. 8

The hitherto unrecorded feature on this piece of wall is the remnant of a turret, and it is a turret of some interest since it differs in one important respect from those on the western side of the town. Although its passage and external steps have gone, the few details on the south side which survive are sufficiently diagnostic and consist of a row of closely spaced corbels projecting from the eastern part of the inner face of the curtain, apparently one course lower than the level of the wall walk to the west, together with the remains of a course of flagstones supported by corbels one to three from the east. Seven corbels survive, and an eighth has been broken off between nos. five and six. Their western limit is certain, but the eastern is not and there could have been more. This combination of a group of corbels beneath flagstones can be seen in four places elsewhere on the town wall, and in three cases it certainly denotes the existence of a turret over the wall walk. These three groups each consist of nine corbels and survive north of St. Andrew's Church, between the Ever and Morden Towers,⁵⁹ and between the Morden and Heber Towers.⁶⁰ The fourth group, between the Heber and Durham Towers, was almost certainly similar but now is only of seven, and was probably damaged when the wall was breached for Stowell Street.⁶¹

⁵⁸ I am indebted to Mr. Peter Clack and Mr. Denis Peel for their help in preparing this plan.

⁵⁹ Parker Brewis, 'The West Walls of New-

castle upon Tyne. Between Durham and Ever Towers', *AA*, XI (1934), plate VIII, fig. 14.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, plate VI, figs. 8 and 9, and plate X.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, plate VII, fig. 11.

It is, however, the arrangement on the north face for which there is no extant parallel in Newcastle. At a point 6.600 m east of the western end of this stretch of wall there is a right-angled projection of the face 0.500 m deep, perhaps c. 4.350 m long and rising to the full surviving height of the wall. The length is uncertain because there is only a hint of the north-east corner, and it appears to have been obscured by an untidy consolidation of the broken east end of the curtain. In approximately the centre of the projection there is a loop 0.800 m high, 0.150 m wide on the outside and with deeply splayed jambs though its precise width on the inner face of the parapet could not be measured because of a later blocking. Nothing survives above the lintel of the loop.

The peculiarity of this turret is its projection from the wall face since elsewhere the curtain runs an uninterrupted course from tower to tower, and only the parapet of a turret is corbelled out over the wall. There seems to be no obvious physical reason for this difference in design, and the difference in date between this example and the western group need be little more than twenty years.⁶² In so far as they survive, the other features appear to conform to the usual pattern, i.e. the overall length of the turret, the dimensions of the loop (the width of the splayed jambs elsewhere is 0.630 m) and the fact that the sill of the loop is marginally higher than the top of the parapet on the wall proper, showing that the turret had been entered by steps from the wall walk.

2. BETWEEN HANOVER STREET AND THE CLOSE (NZ 2488 6363 to 2486 6365)

In June, 1972, the City Planning Department instigated the disengagement of the top and inner (east) face of the town wall where it runs downhill across the derelict ground between Hanover Street and the Close. Since the land to the west belongs to the Newcastle Warehousing Company the outer face of the wall was inaccessible. The work was financed and labour was provided by the City. For their help during this fortnight I am grateful to my site assistant, Miss Lisbeth M. Thoms, and a number of volunteers, and for his subsequent survey of the site (see fig. 9) I am indebted to Mr. Peter Bettess.

While this disengagement represented a follow-up to the investigation of 1968⁶³ it was not in any sense an archaeological excavation. The brief was to reveal what remained of the wall so far as it was safe to do so, and this task was carried out manually on the slope and on the top of the wall

⁶² The Dominican Friars were given leave to have a gate through the new wall, i.e. between Morden and Heber Towers, in 1280. *Cal. Pat. Rolls 1272-81*, 397. In 1300 the mayor and bailiffs were planning to build the stretch

of wall which includes Walknoll Tower. *Northumbrian Petitions*, ed. C. M. Fraser, S.S. 176 (1961), 19-20.

⁶³ *AA*⁴, XLVII (1969), 87-92.

itself, mechanically over the flat ground at the bottom. By the time the City Engineer's representative called a halt the full length of the surviving portion was known, and the face of the southern portion (c. 11 m in length) had been fully revealed. It was, however, considered unsafe to demolish the modern stone revetments and concrete floors which obscured much of the wall as it climbed the hill, and the depth and width of the footings required for such a structure on this slope remain unknown.

The stretch of wall is some $25\frac{1}{2}$ m long and extends from a point approximately 14 m south of Hanover Street as far as the brick wall along the north side of the Close. At the south end it has been truncated by the demolition of Close Gate, and at the north end—though much further from the street than expected—it has apparently been neatly cut off to a vertical face for the construction of Hanover Street. It should be noted, however, that it was not possible to expose more than the top three courses of this butt end.

Even over this short distance the wall is of two different widths and changes direction twice. The section on the slope of the hill is the longer (c. $14\frac{1}{2}$ m), is c. 2.300 m thick at its north end, though apparently widening slightly as it runs downhill, and is on a single alignment. At the point where the ground becomes comparatively level the wall is suddenly increased to a width of 3.050 m and constructed on a slightly more southerly line, an action repeated a few metres further south. Since this width is not maintained to its southern extremity it would appear that the second change of alignment of the inner face is not matched on the outer, but until the latter is fully revealed it is impossible to say more.

It seems probable that the wall stands almost to the height of the wall walk, the evidence being the remains of four steps at the junction of the narrow and wide sectors. The bottom step leads on to a level surface of small rubble in yellow mortar about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m in length, presumably the walk itself. Above the top step the wall core projects jaggedly but rises at a fairly constant gradient, suggesting that only the treads of the stairs are missing. The height of the wide sector, from the top of the footings to the bottom of the lowest of the four steps, is 4.256 m, which is considerably lower than the wall elsewhere in Newcastle. Whether the height of the narrow sector reverts to something nearer the normal $6\frac{1}{2}$ m was not discovered. On the assumption, therefore, that little has been removed from the upper surface of the wall it appears that the walk was horizontal along most of the wide, southern section, then rose some 6 m northwards up an unknown number of steps to a second "landing" at the northern end of the surviving portion. This arrangement accords well enough with those few illustrations which survive of the wall between White Friar Tower and Close Gate.⁶⁴

The northern sector retains only one feature which requires further com-

⁶⁴ Watercolour by G. B. Richardson, 1840, reproduced in *AA*, XIV (1937), plate XII, fig. 1, and 125.

ment, a parapet 5 m long and complete with coping. Since this structure does not, in height, width or general appearance, resemble the parapet of the town wall elsewhere, has never been any longer than it is now and is not related to the downhill slope of the wall it must be presumed a post-medieval addition. There is, however, a diagonal butt joint on both faces and this suggests it contains two periods of building. Two other late structures were removed from this sector—a heightening of the inner face of the medieval wall almost in the form of an inner parapet, and a stone revetment across the wall on top of the four steps, presumably designed to retain the soil covering the wall core.

The disengagement of the southern sector revealed rather more of interest. The footings which project from beneath its eastern face do not run parallel with but into the wall just beyond the change of alignment, and at the point they disappear the wall is stepped down, probably because the ground is falling to the south. The coursed rubble, noted in 1968 and standing 1.064 m high above the foundations, was found to continue at the same height to the southern end of the wall. On top, only one, rather odd, double step was found on the walk in an otherwise level stretch of $6\frac{1}{2}$ m south of the four steps already mentioned. It was, however, the last 4 m of all that provided the real surprise for here the inner half of the wall is occupied by a narrow flight of eleven steps, presumably the remnants of a stair to the ground, while the outer half carries the walk at much the same height as before. Although an unenclosed stair on to the wall seems an unlikely part of the medieval design it appears to be original. The east ends of the steps are just visible in the inner face of the wall, which is damaged and discoloured at this point, and the west ends of some are bonded into the high outer section. The later additions to the southern sector are the remains of an outer parapet, and of a low wall over the ends of the steps. In conclusion, it must be said that it could well be necessary to amend some of this description if fresh discoveries are made during any future conservation.

The wall was built as a barrier and thus it has remained, owing its survival to its use in later years as a boundary between properties fronting the Close. Though the history of the plot immediately east of the wall cannot be described since almost no documentary evidence survives, it is certain that it formed part of the property belonging to Tyne Bridge and was leased, with buildings, to Walter de Cougate in 1298.⁶⁵ How far this plot was affected by the construction of the town's defences in the early fourteenth century is unknown, and there is no further record of it until the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century when it was probably the site of the Waggon Inn. The O.S. map of 1896 shows that it was still covered with buildings, those running up the eastern side being called Jones' Buildings, when neighbouring

⁶⁵ *Ancient Newcastle Deeds*, ed. A. M. Oliver, S.S. 137 (1924), no. 128. This deed was endorsed "within the Closegate next the stairs

leading to the Frere toure now of William Johnson by gift of Cougate".

areas to east and west were vacant. In the early years of the twentieth century it was used by Dickinson Bros. oil merchants, and thereafter it disappeared from the street directories.⁶⁶

The information it was possible to recover during the clearance did little to fill the gaps in the history of either the wall or the plot. Although the renewal of parts of the parapet suggest the wall was used as a footpath in the post-medieval period the heightening of sections of the inner face was perhaps to provide gables for the buildings erected against it. The accumulation of ashy soil, containing pottery dating from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, over the walk, the steps and the wall core where the steps had been removed, indicates that the local inhabitants were engaged in their usual practice of distributing their domestic refuse and night-soil over any open space conveniently at hand. This is supported not only by the existence of a narrow concrete walk across the wall at the foot of the four steps, thus giving access from the east side where buildings survived longer, and by the tiplines of rubbish excavated in 1968, but also by Sheriton Holmes' drawing of the scene in 1882.⁶⁷

The mechanical removal of the vast quantity of debris east of the wall allowed only a cursory examination of the area and nothing dating from before the nineteenth century was seen. Parallel with the street and largely of brick there had been a building two rooms deep. The lower of the two concrete floors uncovered formed the back room in the western half, and was set on a terrace cut into the hillside. The building had probably been divided by a central passage to give access to an open stair which ran north up the rear of the plot between two ranges of derelict rooms, and this general picture agrees well enough with the outline shown on the 1896 O.S. map.

⁶⁶ I am grateful to Mr. and Mrs. J. Slade for providing me with information about this area, and for allowing me to quote their conclusion about the site of the Waggon Inn.

⁶⁷ *Remnants of Old Newcastle upon Tyne*, Part I (Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle, 1883). A framed copy hangs in the Joicey Museum.

