

# XIV

## NOTES

### 1. A FLINT CHIPPING SITE AT LOW SHILFORD, RIDING MILL, NORTHUMBERLAND

THIS SITE extends over at least three fields on Low Shilford Farm (centred NZ 031617, 035617 and the west end of 037617) and was first recognised by Rev. T. Heyes while examining the proposed route of the ethylene pipeline through Northumberland. The area concerned lies on the south bank of the River Tyne between it and the road A695, but has now been further disturbed by works involved with both the ethylene and gas pipelines, a new by-pass road and a water board pumping station. The material has been collected over the last four years from the ploughsoil.

The site itself is a river terrace about 15 m above the river and is of sandy gravel overlying clay, the flint material being confined to this well-drained soil. No particular concentrations were observed though the finds were more prolific nearer to the river, which has eroded the bank somewhat. The collection has therefore been treated as a single unit.

A total of 1,118 pieces of flint and 11 of other stone were collected and analysed as follows:

<i>Waste</i>	Blades—maximum length 30 mm	59
	Flakes—20 mm and over	149
	under 20 mm	417
	stone other than flint	10
	Cores—1 platform (8 were scrapers)	19
	2 opposing platforms (1 scraper)	9
	2 platforms at right angles	4
	Other	10
	Trimming flakes	5
	Burnt waste	143
<i>Utilized flakes</i>	Blades (max. size 40 mm)	29
	flakes 20 mm and over	54
	under 20 mm mostly broken fragments	23
<i>Flakes with minor retouch</i>	Part of 1 margin	77
	Whole of 1 margin	16
	Distal edge	18
	Hollow	5

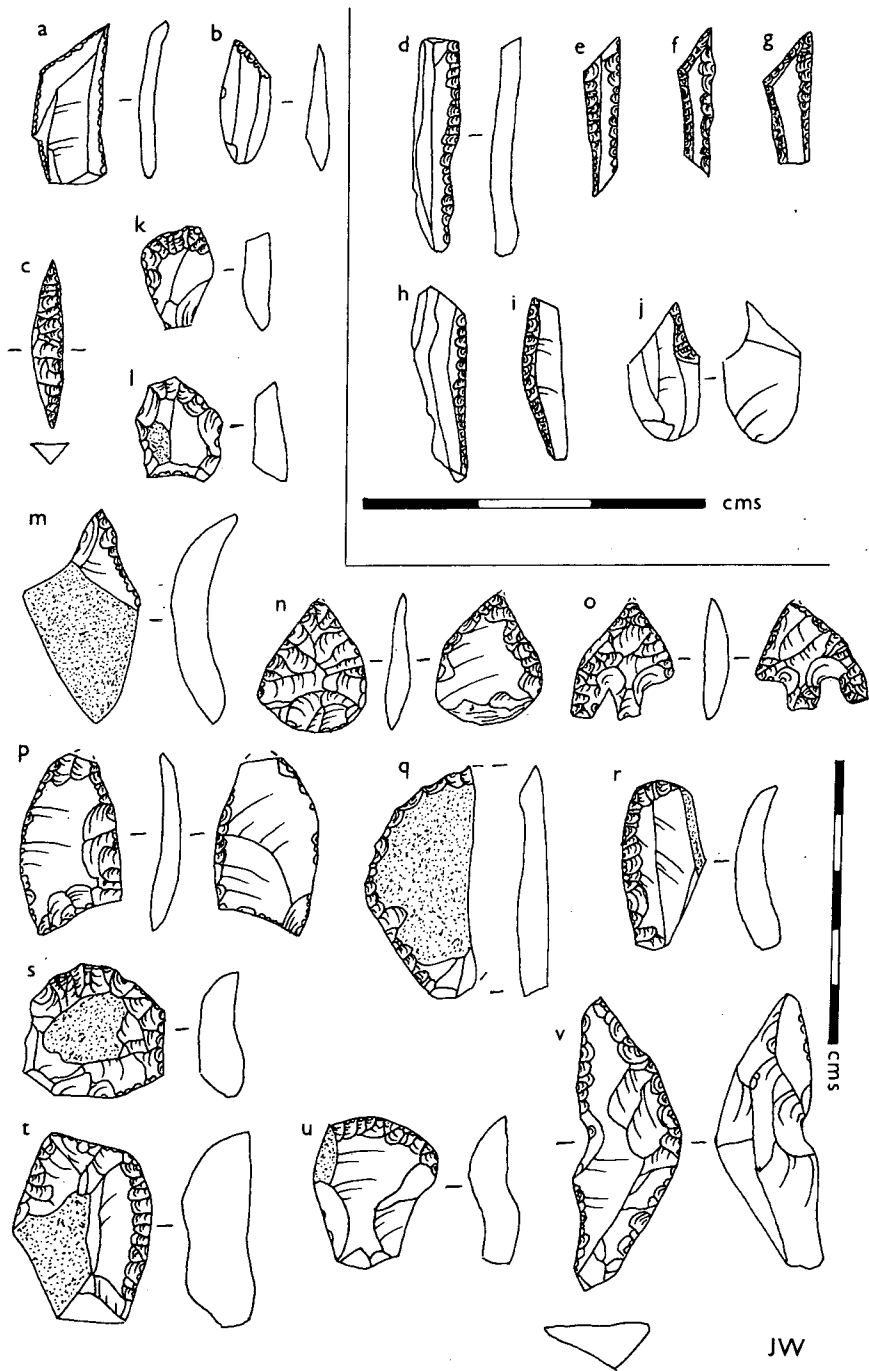


Fig. 1.

### *Tools*

*Mesolithic*—12 microliths were collected. Two were early (fig. 1a, b) and the remainder neat geometric types and therefore later (fig. 1d–i). All of the latter group were made in the same off-white flint, as were 2 microburins (fig. 1j). There were 13 scrapers judged as mesolithic, the best and the most typical being shown (fig. 1k, l) and 3 borers (fig. 1m), one of which was in quartzite.

*Post-mesolithic*—2 similar leaf arrowheads were picked up (fig. 1n) though one was burnt, and a tanged and single barbed arrowhead (fig. 1o). A hollow-based lop-sided projectile point of Clark's class H (fig. 1p) was an unusual find for this area. A neatly trimmed knife on a primary flake of honey-grey flint (fig. 1q), a knife/scrapper (fig. 1r), 8 scrapers (e.g. fig. 1s, t, u) and a borer were present. There was also an implement of excellent brown flint (fig. 1v) which was probably a re-used flake from a flint axe. Finally, 15 utilized and waste flakes showing evidence of flint flaking were also judged to be post-mesolithic.

The material was almost entirely of grey flint with black and white speckles except those mentioned above. This uniformity in colour must suggest "imported" supplies, possibly from Yorkshire, in contrast to similarly placed sites on the River Tweed and elsewhere to the north<sup>1</sup> where a high proportion of grey-green flint derived from local glacial gravels is used.

This site at Riding Mill shows use over a long period from early mesolithic to late neolithic. Other mesolithic sites are being sought and found in the Tyne valley.

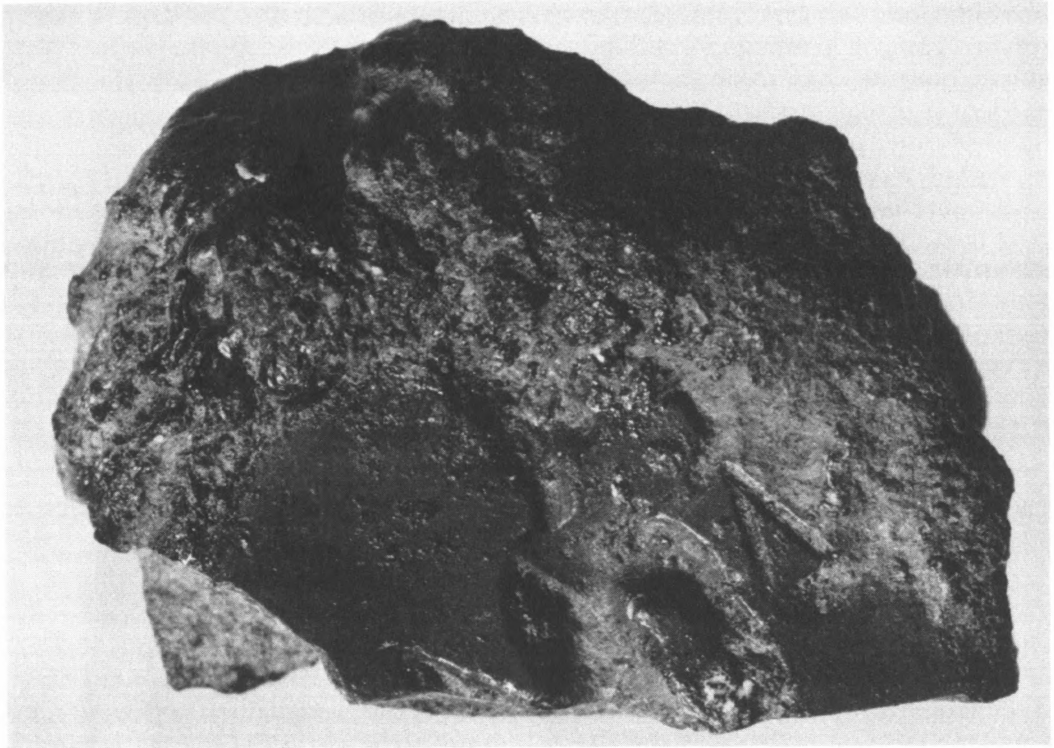
JOAN WEYMAN

## 2. AN INTAGLIO FROM ROMAN CORBRIDGE (pl. VI)

THE SUBJECT of this note was found in 1978 by a visitor to the Roman site at Corbridge and handed in to the Head Custodian, Mr. W. Simpson. Mr. Simpson duly passed it on to the Hon. Curator of the site-museum, Dr. D. J. Smith, who in turn sent it to me for comment. It is now in the collection of the Trustees of the Corbridge Excavation Fund.

The gem was set in an iron ring, now very fragmentary but evidently of a type with a plain broad hoop.<sup>2</sup> It is of red jasper and was cut to ovoid form with a flat upper face.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately the bottom half is missing but the surviving piece has a breadth of 9 mm and thickness of 2 mm.

Describing from an impression the intaglio portrays a male figure walking towards the right. Over his left shoulder he holds a curved staff from which hangs a basket or bundle. The type is that of a huntsman, but the figure may have been equated with Bonus Eventus.<sup>4</sup> A glass intaglio from Corbridge is comparable,<sup>5</sup> and there are numerous variations on the same theme upon gems from other sites in Britain. These include red jaspers found at Castlesteads,<sup>6</sup> Housesteads,<sup>7</sup> Newstead,<sup>8</sup> Chesterford (Essex),<sup>9</sup> Ruxox Farm (Beds.),<sup>10</sup> and Canterbury.<sup>11</sup>



An intaglio from Roman Corbridge

The type of ring and style of cutting date this gem to the second half of the second century, but of course it need not have been lost until long after it was made. The gem is related to the products of some of the late Aquileian workshops, especially the "Officina dei Diaspri Rossi" and the "Officina dei Dioscuri".<sup>12</sup>

MARTIN HENIG, M.A., D.Phil.

### 3. A STAMFORD WARE LAMP FROM SADDLER STREET, DURHAM CITY

IN THE course of work carried out in the renovation and refitting of No. 78 Saddler Street, Durham City (NZ 2741 4249), some 0.6 metres of disturbed sand was removed from the rear part of the building, coming down onto a firm deposit of sand, the front edge of which was cut back to receive some new steps. In the process of cutting this sand, a cresset lamp was found in the top-most layer. This has been identified by Ms. K. Kilmurry as a piece of late eleventh-century Stamford Ware (see below) which is now on display in the Museum of Archaeology, Old Fulling Mill, Durham City. I am most grateful to her for the appended report and to Miss Y. Brown who drew the lamp.

P. A. G. CLACK

THE STAMFORD Ware lamp, vessel form 10,<sup>13</sup> from Saddler Street, Durham, was found complete and scarcely damaged. It is of Stamford Fabric A with only occasional, accidental specks of yellow glaze on the interior, and thus can be recorded A 0/(1). This particular lamp form 10-04 is not identically paralleled at Stamford, but is most similar to pieces of late eleventh-century date from the Stamford Castle excavations of C. Mahany.

The upper centimetre of the exterior and interior of the rim is sooted with traces of a black deposit in places, frequently present on other rims of this vessel type. The edges of the base are broken off to an irregular shape; such chipping, occurring completely around the base circumference, is apparent on a number of other examples from the mid-eleventh century onward and seems to be a deliberate attempt to reduce the base diameter. This trimming might reflect the vessel's re-use as a lid, with the base used as a knob handle. However, the rim diameter (exterior 8 cm) is rather small and it is more likely that the lamp simply changed from being self-supporting to being placed in a wall bracket. Stability would then be unnecessary and a narrower base needed instead.

This lamp represents the most northerly example of Stamford Ware confirmed to date, although it is unlikely to represent direct trade between Stamford and Durham. In the late eleventh century Stamford Ware was still relatively common in York, from trade with Stamford, but there is a scarcity of this material further north. Thus the Durham lamp may have been obtained from York as a secondary redistribution. But it

need not be a trade item, for it could well have been transported as part of someone's personal effects.

K. KILMURRY

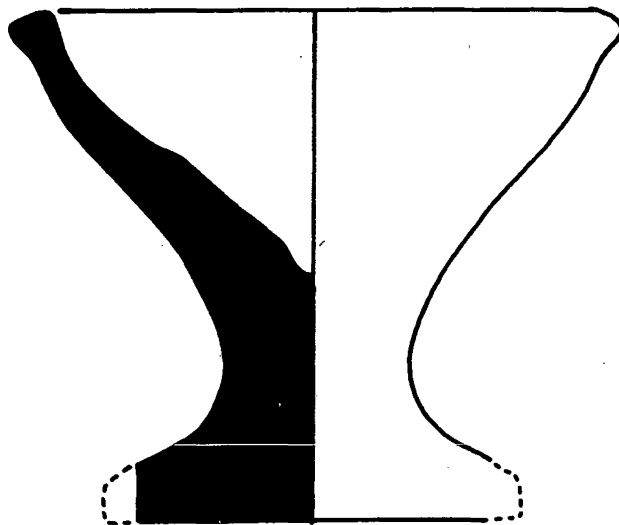


Fig. 2. A Stamford Ware lamp from Durham (1:1).

#### 4. CROSS-RIDGE DYKES ON CLENNELL STREET, NORTHUMBERLAND

IN THEIR useful report on field monuments in the Otterburn Training Area in *AA*<sup>5</sup>, VII, 207–33, Mrs. Charlton and Mr. Day publish two dykes on Clennell Street, Northumberland. Other cross-ridge dykes falling outside the Training Area were necessarily excluded and one purpose of the present note is to give a more comprehensive view of the dykes on this section of Clennell Street.<sup>14</sup> The other is to record the dykes in this sector, noted by Sir Walter Aitchison and the writer as they were in 1950, more especially as some have since been destroyed.

The section of Clennell Street covered is that from Guide Post to Clennell, and the map (fig. 3) is based on one prepared by Sir Walter in 1951. It shows the location, orientation, and length of the dykes then noted, with the addition of the ditch at Wholehope observed subsequently. Also shown on the map, but not in the list below as not being on Clennell Street, is the cross-ridge dyke on Copper Snout. In the list, but not on the map, is a cross-dyke at Drummers Well observed by Mr. Alec Bankier and published in the Charlton/Day survey in 1977.<sup>15</sup> Inclusion on the map or in the list should not be read as implying that any of the works is indeed a “cross-ridge dyke” within the terms of any definition less wide than that of a linear work running counter

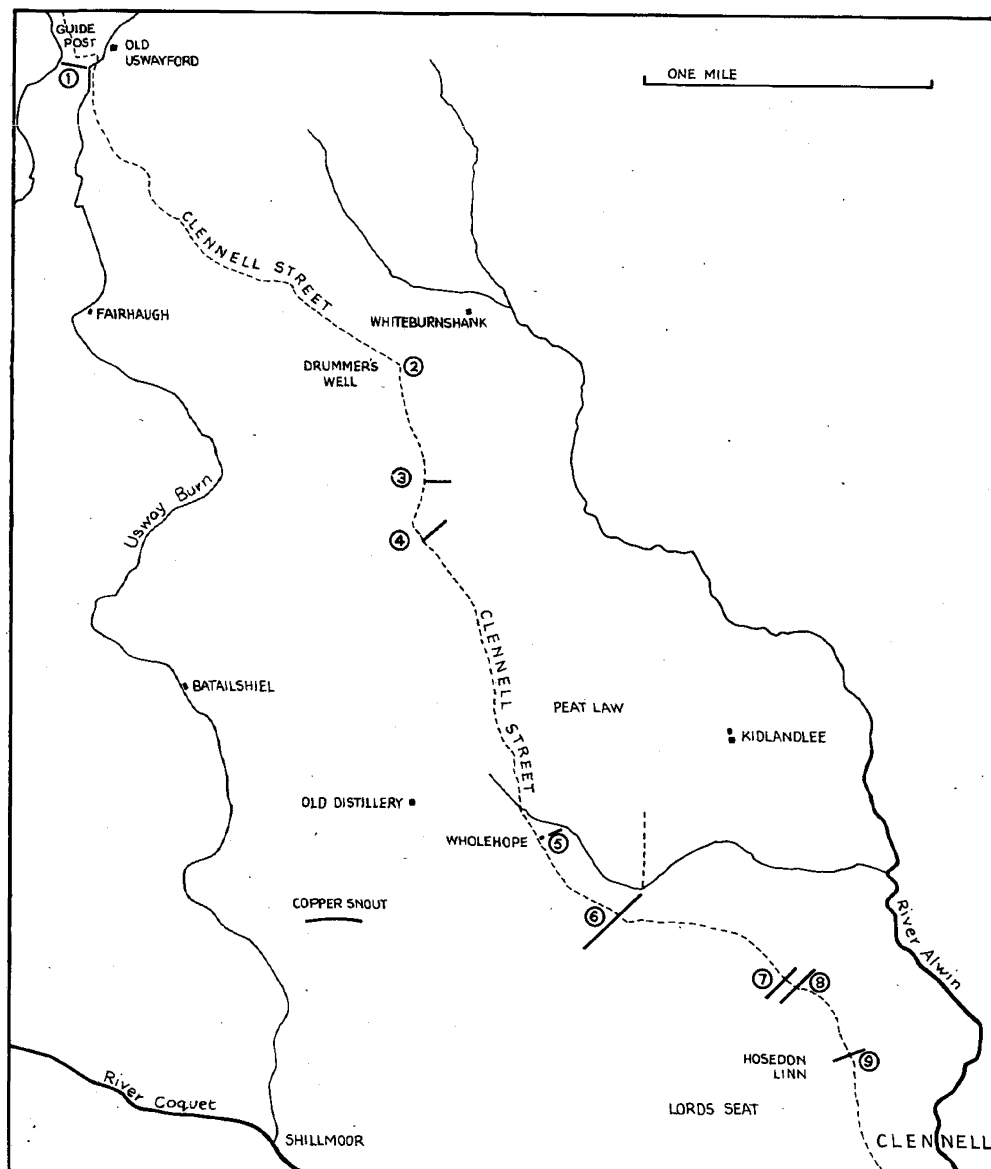


Fig. 3. Dykes on Clennell Street, Northumberland.

to the line of a ridge-route. If it were added that the work should not extend any great distance either side of the route, then no. 6 (Hare Sheds) should be excluded. Even so, there would remain three types: those which extend over a ridge from burn to burn (e.g. no. 1); those that end apparently arbitrarily at no great distance from the route (e.g. nos. 7 and 8); and those on one side only of the route (e.g. nos. 3 and 4).

The set of aerial photographs in the writer's possession covers only the first four sites. They bear Air Ministry reference CPL/Scot/319 and were taken on 22nd March 1948. A list of the dykes between Guide Post and Clennell follows:

	Approximate location	OS reference	Aerial photograph
1	Guide Post	875136	2128
2	Drummers Well	893118	3126
3	Nettlehope	897113	3126 and 1126
4	Flesh Shank	897110	3126 and 1126
5	Wholehope	903094	—
6	Hare Sheds	907089	—
7	Uplaw Knowe A	916085	—
8	Uplaw Knowe B	916085	—
9	Hosedon	918082	—

## DISCUSSION

1. *Guide Post*. Visible on the ground as a low turf dyke of no great pretensions. It may clearly be seen both on the ground and on the aerial photograph as running from burn to burn.

2. *Drummers Well*. Recorded by A. M. Bankier. Not visible on aerial photograph and now ploughed out. Included as (n) in *AA*<sup>5</sup>, VI, 228, from which source it is included in the present list.

3. *Nettlehope*. Visible in aerial photograph (1948), but now ploughed out.

4. *Flesh Shank*. Of this Sir Walter noted: "The S.W. extension has been obliterated by modern turbary". This comment assumes that the dyke should cross Clennell Street. There is no evidence that it did and it is suggested that the assumption is not well-based. On an earlier occasion (1973) the writer suggested that there is a type of dyke which is canted at an angle to, but does not cross, the route with which it is associated.<sup>16</sup> Neither 3 nor 4 are known to have crossed Clennell Street and as recorded form a pair protecting the valley-head east of Clennell Street.

5. *Wholehope*. First published Charlton/Day 1977. When in 1973 I described this ditch, I was content to group it with dykes of the type of 3 and 4 above. At the same time I suggested that 6 (below) might be a ditch referred to in the Newminster charters (Surtees Society LXVI, 76). Later I became dissatisfied with this identification. The



passage reads: *and so westwards up the Kidland burn to the ditch dug by the monks to mark their bounds from those of Thomas of Clennell and so by that ditch as far as Redepeth on the great Ernespeth Road.*<sup>17</sup> The ditch therefore should run only from the burn to Clennell Street. This is what the ditch at Wholehope does, whereas at Hare Sheds the dyke not merely crossed Clennell Street but crossed the burn and ran up the hill towards Peat Law.

I have little doubt therefore that the ditch at Wholehope may be identified with the boundary dug by the monks. It is different in character from the other dykes, it conforms to the description in the charter and with the boundary of the Kidland estate as it emerges into modern times.

About the identification of Redepeth with Wholehope, apparently implicit in our acceptance of this boundary, it is difficult to be so confident. Certainly in the thirteenth century there was a place called Wholehope, possibly more than one so called, but it may not have been this place. The Holhopcriwes of this same passage in the charters certainly refers to the other Wholehope that feeds into the Allerhope burn. The Longhollop of 1536 (AA 3 VIII 20) is also quite certainly this other Wholehope. The available evidence neither proves nor disproves that Redepeth was what we now know as Wholehope, but the possibility should be envisaged that all the earlier references to Hollop may relate to the more easterly dale and that the name was only later transferred to the site on Clennell Street. A name is more mobile than a ditch, and I am fortified to find that the latter is also identified as that of the monks by Mrs. Charlton and Mr. Day.<sup>18</sup>

6. *Hare Sheds*. Of this Sir Walter noted: "May be a cross-dyke, but perhaps only a land boundary". It may well be rejected as a cross-dyke. As described above it could formerly be seen to continue up the opposite slope towards Peat Law as shown by a broken line on the map (fig. 3). Even now (1979), when the hillside has been ploughed and afforested, the line of the dyke may be seen from Clennell Street as an irregularity in the planting of the trees. On this dyke and close to the track of Clennell Street is a shallow depression in the ground with heavy stone side-walls. It is suggested that this was a cock-pit, c.f. the one at Guide Post, and that it has no connection with the dyke.<sup>19</sup>

7 and 8. *Uplaw Knowe*. Of these Sir Walter noted: "A confused site. Several hollow tracks, but I think two cross-dykes can be discerned". The hollow tracks are traffic ruts presumably made by successive droves of cattle over many years. This suggests that the dykes at latest pre-date the heaviest usage of the driftway during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It also suggests that the dykes, at least when in decay, were not insuperable to cattle.

9. *Hosedon*. Adjoins one of Mr. Jobey's settlements (AA 4 L, 1972, 73), which Sir Walter incidentally noted as "a primitive settlement".

J. PHILIPSON

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> A. D. Lacaille (1954), *The Stone Age in Scotland*, O.U.P., p. 161 et seq., and J. G. Callander (1927), *P.S.A.S.* LXI, p. 318–27.

<sup>2</sup> M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites* (Brit. Arch. Repts., no. 8, 2nd ed., 1978), fig. 1, Type V.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 1, Shape F1.

<sup>4</sup> M. Henig in *Roman Life and Art in Britain* (Brit. Arch. Repts., no. 41, 1978), pp. 341 ff. and pl. 14.1.

<sup>5</sup> Henig, *Corpus*, no. 181.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, no. 185.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, no. 186.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, no. 200.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, no. 201.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, no. 202.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, no. App. 159.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. G. Sena Chiesa, *Gemme del Museo Nazionale di Aquileia* (Padua, 1966), pp. 60 ff.; also, for examples of the type, p. 304, nos. 840–2.

<sup>13</sup> The form, fabric and notation refer to the classification system defined for Stamford Ware in K. Kilmer "An approach to pottery methodology: Stamford ware", *Medieval Ceramics*, I (1977).

<sup>14</sup> Based upon a paper read to the Society in 1973.

<sup>15</sup> *An archaeological survey of the Ministry of Defence Training Area, Otterburn, Northumberland* by D. B. Charlton and J. C. Day, 1977 (privately published).

<sup>16</sup> The recognition of this type of dyke was prompted by one such on Middle Hill (OS 873128; AM photograph 3128).

<sup>17</sup> In the original: *et sic versus le west ascendendo per eundem Kidlandburne usque ad fossatum quod fecerunt monachi pro divisa inter illos et Thomam de Clenill, et sic per fossatum illud usque in Redepeth in magnam viam de Ernespeth*. The charter is undated, but may be attributed to the period from c. 1195, when Robert de Umfravill died, to 1226, when Richard de Umfravill died. As Eustace de Vesci is mentioned in the charter, it was probably drawn before his death in 1216. The value of the text of these charters as topographical evidence might be increased if Fowler's readings of place-names were checked by an experienced palaeographer. For example, on page 75 "Hetherdes Rode" might read Neatherds Road and "Elyn" would make much more sense as Slyn, which could be identified with the modern Slime.

<sup>18</sup> By some slip they cite (Charlton and Day 1977, 105) page 72 in the Surtees Society volume; the reference to the ditch is on page 76. The map facing page 72 is only of qualified value as evidence, as there is ground for believing that it was based on a source no more ancient than the plan in a late nineteenth-century prospectus for the sale of the Kidland estate for which Fowler's informant William Woodman acted as solicitor.

<sup>19</sup> It is suggested that this dyke may be the *Longe Wall* mentioned in the survey of 1536 (AA 3 VIII 20). Certainly the short ditch at Wholehope cannot readily be equated with a Long Wall, though surveyors have been capable of misdescription, more especially when first-hand knowledge requires arduous travel.