

## VIII

### An Excavation at Etal Castle, Northumberland, in 1978

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with a contribution by Louisa Gidney*

#### SUMMARY

**A** small excavation failed to locate either the supposed fourth tower of the castle or the north corner of the courtyard. It did, however, uncover part of a building on the inside of, and pre-dating, the former north curtain wall. It seemed possible that the final use of this part of the site was industrial, perhaps as a smithy.

#### INTRODUCTION

The ruins of Etal Castle, now in the guardianship of English Heritage, stand at the west end of the village of Etal on the south bank of the River Till (NT 925393). Today there remain a tower-house, a gatehouse, a south-west corner tower and fragments of the curtain wall. Masonry, which was earlier interpreted as the north angle of the bailey, is not now visible. While the earliest surviving documentary reference is for 1341, when Robert Manners obtained a licence to crenellate his house, it has recently been suggested that "the great tower" predated the licence, and began as a "three-storey hall house of the thirteenth or earlier fourteenth century". The castle saw some action at the beginning of the sixteenth century but was in poor repair by the end.<sup>1</sup>

Archaeological work known to have been carried out at the castle consists of the excavation in 1978 described in this report, the clearance of the overburden of the tower-house forebuilding in 1983, and a watching brief on work at the gatehouse in 1994.<sup>2</sup> In 1998 a geophysical survey was conducted by English Heritage's Ancient Monuments Laboratory to try to locate the remains of the putative fourth

tower of the castle.<sup>3</sup> It did not produce unequivocal evidence for such a tower, but detected another possible location for it nearer the north-east boundary of the castle site.

#### THE EXCAVATION

The first-named author directed a two-week excavation at Etal Castle, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, in July and August, 1978. It consisted of a single trench, measuring 14 by 5m, located 30m north-east of the keep (for location see figs. 1 and 2), with the object of identifying the purpose of a mound in this north corner of the castle's enclosure. As it was not possible in the available time to empty the trench to subsoil, the central flagging was left in position, and a considerable amount of the rubble of demolition remains undug at the south end of the trench. The earliest feature discovered was a wall (18) which ran for a minimum of 7m from approximately north to south, and protruded from the east side of the trench, thus making its width irrecoverable on this occasion (see fig. 3). The next structural event was the construction of the curtain (11), a substantial wall 1.30m thick. This ran across the north end of the excavation, and to accommodate it a trench had been chopped through wall (18). Finally a building, of which the east and south walls (3/9) were revealed, was added against the south face of the curtain west of (18). There were thus three discrete sets of deposits, between (18) and (3/9), within the building delimited by (3/9) and north of (11).



*Fig. 1 Aerial view of Etal Castle from the north, August 1980. The excavation trench is shown fenced.*  
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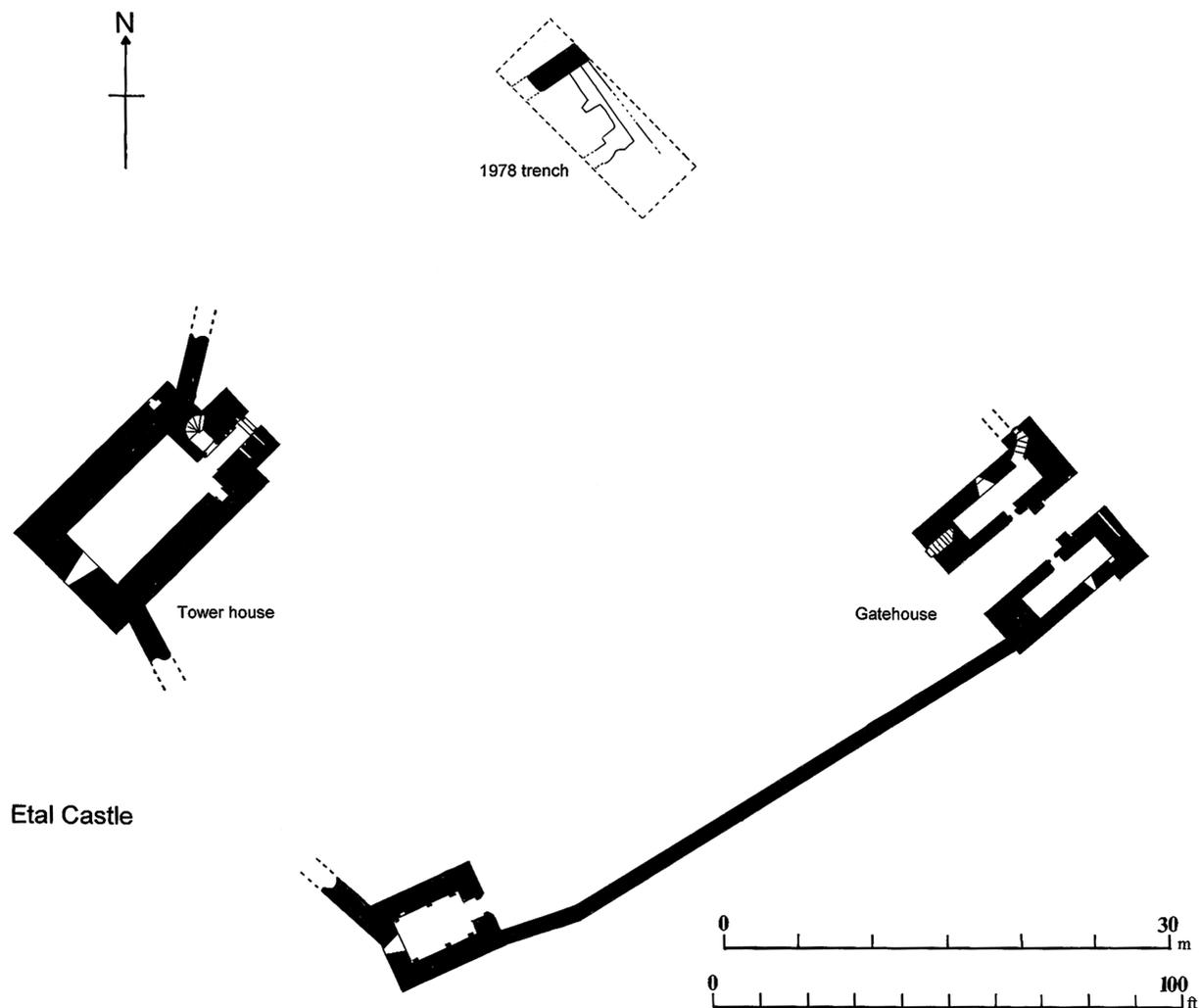


Fig. 2 Plan of Etal Castle, based on a survey at 1:500 by Plowman Craven Associates for the Department of the Environment in 1976.

Wall (18) stood to a maximum of two courses high (0.47m) above projecting footings, contained some red sandstone in the visible west face and had a greenish sandstone and mortar core. At its north end it was separated from the curtain by a gap of 0.12m filled with powdery rubble, and it was concluded that this was the result of demolition to make space for the curtain wall.

Soil then accumulated, or was deposited, over its footings and against its west face. Towards its north end there was a patch of stones (33), and these, with a spread of white mortar (29), lay beneath reddish, perhaps burnt, clay (23). Above was dark brown clayey soil (24/27) which, because of its nature and the quantity of bones and pottery it produced, was probably an occupational deposit (see

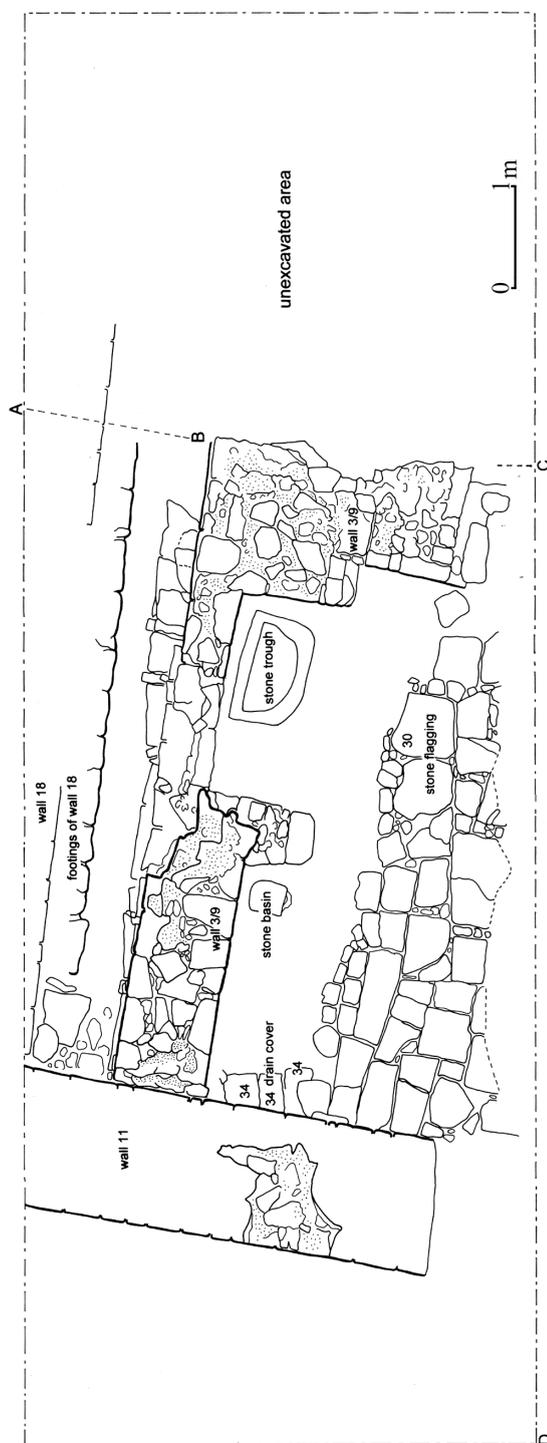


Fig. 3 Etal Castle: plan of the area excavated in 1978, showing features visible after the removal of the rubble of demolition, and some earlier layers at the east side.

fig. 4). It appeared to date from the late fourteenth to fifteenth century. Although the relationship of this layer to the curtain was not clear, it had certainly been cut through by the foundation trench of wall (3/9) which lay parallel and to the west of wall (18). The space between the west face of (18) and the east face of (3/9) was then filled with a dump of dark gravelly soil (21) which included subsidiary layers of gingery and white mortar. Since only bones, and no artefacts, were found in this dump the reason for its deposit is uncertain, but it was perhaps just to raise the ground level in this area.

The substantial wall (11), which ran across the north end of the excavation, was assumed to be the curtain. It was 1.30m thick, and had been robbed out at its west end (see fig. 5). The rubble of the robbing produced finds of a date no later than the late sixteenth century.

Outside (to the north of) the curtain wall, excavation stopped at the surface of the reddish-brown clay (till?) which sloped away to the north, and in which there was a V-shaped depression also running north. The lowest deposit here, and lying against the footings of the curtain, was a layer of smooth brown soil (28). In turn it was covered by dark brown soil, with some stones (26). This lay over the footings of the curtain, and in places against the first course of the actual wall, and dipped away quite deeply. Both these layers yielded substantial quantities of bones, with a few artefacts ranging in date from the thirteenth to the early seventeenth century, and were perhaps the result of rubbish dumping. Above were (14), followed by (16), which both contained more stones than (26) and (28) but produced similar finds.

Some 0.85m west of wall (18) was the south-east corner of a building against the curtain wall. Its walls (3/9), the eastern of which butted the curtain, were a minimum of 6.40m from north to south, 2.50m west to east, a maximum of 0.90m thick, and in places stood 4 courses high (up to 1.30m) above a single course of projecting footings. The south end of this structure had been broken off and was not revealed. Set into the west face of the (east) wall at its

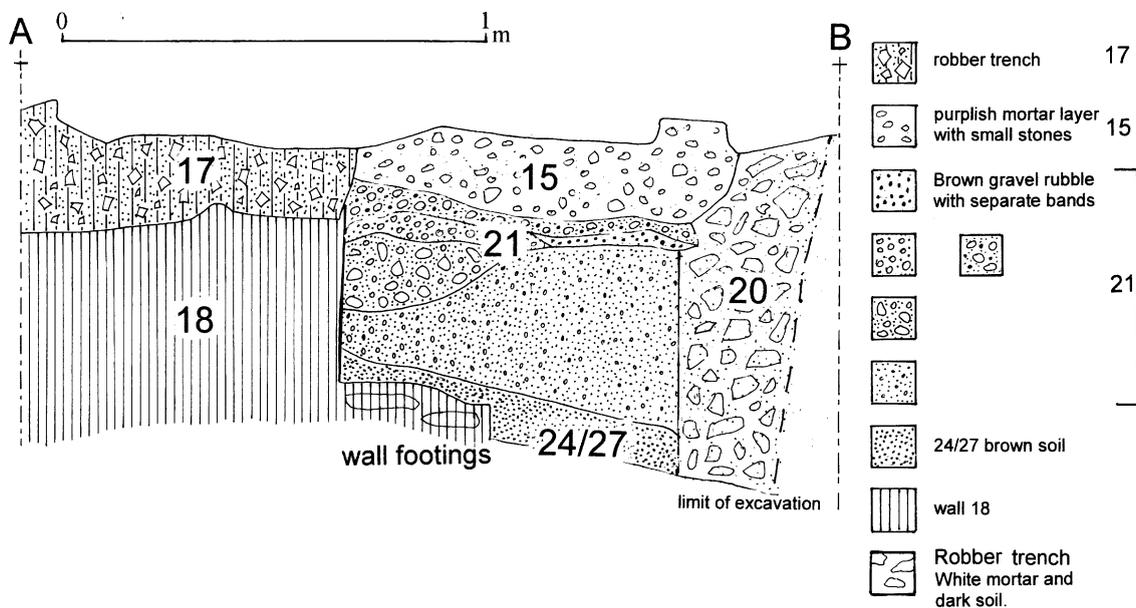


Fig. 4 *Etal Castle: section of the excavated area A to B; for location see fig. 3.*

south end was a 2.00m wide recess flanked by two stone projections, which gave the recess a depth of 1.05m. The south wall ended in a straight face, perhaps a door or some other feature. Since the foundation trench of wall (3/9) had been dug through layer (24/27), which lay against wall (18), the building was clearly last in the sequence of structures.

The earliest features and deposits within the area of the building predated walls (11) and (3/9), but may have been contemporary with (18). The cover of a stone drain apparently ran from north-south and under the curtain; over this drain, but beneath a patch of flagging (30), there was dark brown soil and gravel (32) which produced pottery ranging in date from the late fourteenth to the late sixteenth century, as well as bones and metal objects. The flags also extended under the curtain but did not reach as far as wall (3/9).

The next deposits in the sequence probably resulted from the use of the building. Purplish-black soil and fragments of coal (25) lay patchily over the floor, over layer (32) and in the recess in wall (3/9), and contained artefacts and bones. Black ash (22) covered much of the

floor, particularly the eastern part, and lay against the face of wall (3/9). Layers (32) and (25) produced finds of similar date, late fourteenth to mid or late sixteenth century. On this ashy soil in the recess was a pink sandstone trough. The last layer to be the result of occupation was brown soil (19) which occupied the southern part of the building and post-dated layers (22) and (25). As (19) produced a fragment of clay tobacco pipe the pottery from this layer, of the late fourteenth to fifteenth century, was clearly residual.

The end of the use of this part of the castle probably came in or after the seventeenth century. It was indicated by successive layers of rubble, first (7), which was particularly thick inside the building and contained many large stones, and then (6), which lay across the centre of the trench. A robber trench (5) had been dug over the curtain and through (7), but produced no dateable finds. Dark brown gravelly soil (2) covered everything below the topsoil. The bulk of the finds from (7) and (6) fall between the late fourteenth and the late seventeenth century, with one or two artefacts which are later and may be intrusive, while those from (2)

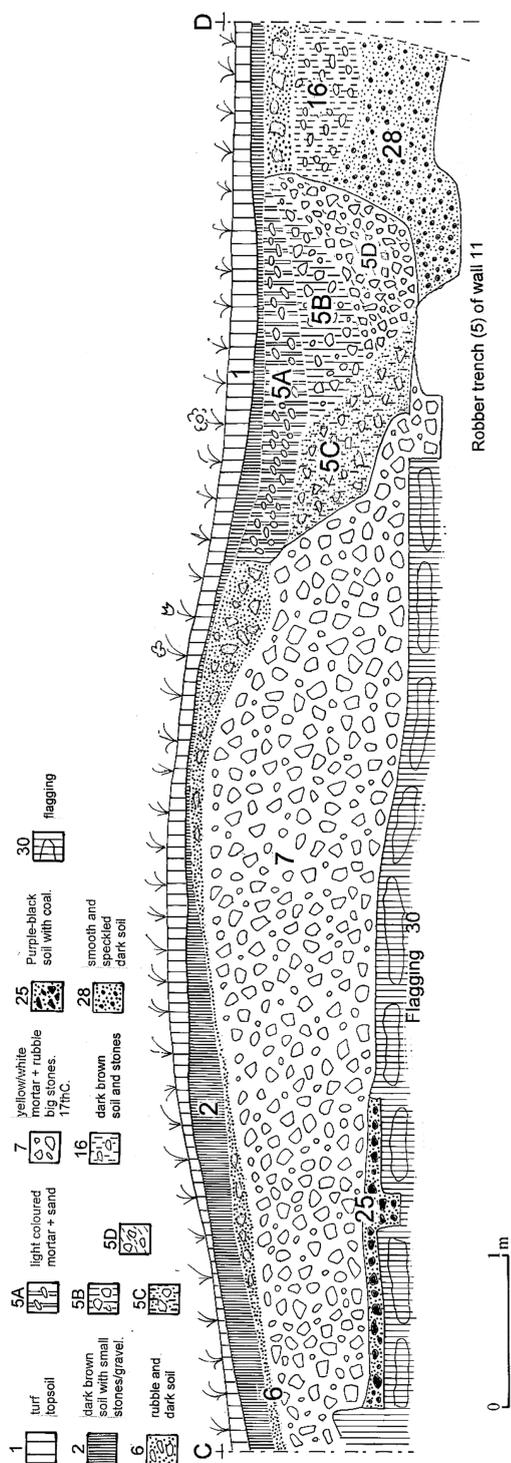


Fig. 5 Etal Castle: section of the excavated area C to D; for location see fig. 3.

range from late medieval to the nineteenth century. Material recovered from the topsoil (1) is similar to (2) in date, and its confused nature is perhaps the result of ploughing.

CONCLUSION

Finding the curtain wall in this trench was predictable, but the discovery of a building which predated the wall was not. This was perhaps originally part of the village, or a unit of an earlier domestic, non-military, establishment, and is of considerable interest. Clarification of its function can, however, only come through further excavation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The archive and the finds from the excavations are deposited with the Museum of Antiquities at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne

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THE FINDS

Note that this finds report was originally written more than ten years ago and has not been substantially updated.

## 1. THE ARTEFACTS

*Margaret Ellison*

### A. THE POTTERY

#### Introduction

The medieval and post-medieval pottery occurred in such small quantities that the assemblage is not, in itself, very informative or reliable for site interpretation, and it is therefore not illustrated. However, the indications of local parallels (notably with the material from Lindisfarne)<sup>4</sup> and links with the general north Northumberland and southern Scottish Border tradition, suggest that, as further sites in the area are excavated, this group could provide useful material for inclusion in an area study. The assemblage also provides further examples of the known general stylistic and technical developments in the region in the late medieval and early post-medieval periods, whilst the pattern of late medieval and early post-medieval imported pottery gives rise to a query about the pattern of this trade in the region generally.

Rhenish stonewares occur in much greater numbers than Low Countries redwares (20 vessels to 5). A similar pattern occurs on other inland castle sites for which there are forthcoming reports: Barnard Castle (87 stoneware vessels, 15 redware vessels), Prudhoe Castle (81 stoneware vessels, 42 redware vessels), though at Edlingham Castle the quantities are roughly equal (20 stoneware, 19 redware).<sup>5</sup> Looking to other types of site, at Holy Island the proportion is 31 stoneware vessels to 20 redware vessels,<sup>6</sup> at the village site of West Whelpington the proportion is 20 to 2,<sup>7</sup> while at Sewing-shields a late medieval long house site produced at least one stoneware vessel but no redwares.<sup>8</sup> The later deposits (fourteenth and fifteenth centuries) at the Oil Mill Lane site in Berwick show the same pattern, even though in earlier phases Low Countries wares were a common import.<sup>9</sup>

The relative proportions of these two imported groups at all the sites quoted above (including Etal) are in marked contrast to the proportions in which they occurred in the large rubbish tip in the Castle Ditch, Newcastle<sup>10</sup>

(presumably the main port of entry). Allowing for the problems of the vessel count in that assemblage,<sup>11</sup> redware vessels were probably nearly twice as common as stoneware vessels.

This comparison raises a number of questions which, on the basis of existing evidence cannot be answered, but which may repay attention in the future: (1) are the differences, in some or all cases, due to major political and economic changes, as suggested in the case of the Berwick material?<sup>12</sup> (2) does the pattern of distribution reflect different consumer requirements as between, for example, an urban merchant class and rural castle or homestead dwellers?; (3) does the distribution indicate that the transport and sale of higher priced and comparatively smaller vessels (the stonewares) was easier and more profitable for the traders to the hinterland than the sale of redwares?<sup>13</sup>

#### The Catalogue of Fabric Types

This type series is based on the stratigraphy of the 1978 excavation, and pottery found during the excavation of the tower-house forebuilding by Rob Burns in 1983. Sherds from the modern dumping in area 1, and the top of area 2 (1983), have been largely excluded. The modern pottery is summarised separately after the type series.

#### Local Wares

##### *Fabric 1:*

This is represented by two different fired versions:

##### (i) Oxidised Greenware:

A hard rather rough fabric, largely oxidised to a light brick red colour with mid grey reduced core. Contains abundant fine, medium and coarse quartz and iron ore inclusions and abundant mica. External olive green or yellow/brown glaze is fairly extensive, and there is some internal splashing.

The ware appears to be the same as fabric 14 from Holy Island,<sup>14</sup> where it occurs in every phase of the site. No parallel was found for the rim form.

##### (ii) Reduced Greenwares:

These are clearly part of the regional late medieval tradition in the North-East. Some wares have specific parallels in the material from Holy Island

and close parallels of vessel form or potting technique with the wares excavated in Newcastle.

*Fabric 2:*

A smooth, hard fabric with moderate inclusions of fine quartz and iron ore. Predominantly a dark grey, often with lighter grey margins and occasional oxidised patches. Usually with a nearly full cover of olive green glaze externally.

This ware is clearly identifiable with very similar wares from Holy Island (Fabric 13a)<sup>15</sup> and Type 4 reduced greenware from Newcastle.<sup>16</sup> The fragments are mainly from cisterns, including a rim of the commonest type from Newcastle,<sup>17</sup> but also includes the thin-walled sherds which predominated in the Holy Island group. The disturbed stratigraphy at Holy Island made it difficult to establish any precise dating for this ware there but, on the basis of similarities of fabric and form with the Newcastle ware, it is probably a late fourteenth- and fifteenth-century ware.

*Fabric 3:*

A hard fabric, rougher than Fabric 2, but still fairly smooth, with abundant fine and very fine quartz and iron ore inclusions. Most sherds have a dark grey core with buff or light grey margins and a fairly full cover of external olive green glaze.

This type is very similar to fabric 13b from Holy Island.<sup>18</sup> Again the dating of this ware at Holy Island could not be precise and it is not a ware which has been identified in Newcastle. On this site it occurs in contexts which probably range from the late medieval to the early post-medieval period.

*Fabric 4:*

A hard, rough fabric with abundant fine and medium quartz and iron ore (and occasional larger) inclusions, abundant mica and voids. Usually with a full cover of external olive green glaze and, in the case of the fragment of cistern base, full internal glaze. Though largely a mid grey reduced ware, the internal surfaces, when unglazed, are buff or light red. External margins, under glaze, are light grey.

The fabric is closely paralleled at Holy Island (fabric 13c),<sup>19</sup> and forms (cistern rim and base) and potting techniques (coarse fabric, extensive glazing, including internally glazed vessels) are very similar to early sixteenth-century wares in Newcastle (Type 4/5).<sup>20</sup>

The dating at Holy Island again proved problematic. At Etal this type only occurred in clearly post-medieval contexts associated with sixteenth-century imported wares.

*Fabric 5:*

A hard, rough fabric with pimply surfaces, abundant fine, medium and coarse quartz inclusions with some iron ore and mica. The fabric is a mid grey with a light red oxidised internal margin. Fully glazed externally with a glossy olive green glaze. There are no specific parallels for this sherd, but the heavy gritting is similar to late thirteenth and early fourteenth-century wares elsewhere.

*Fabric 6:*

A hard fabric with pimply surfaces, medium and coarse quartz and iron ore inclusions in moderate quantities, and some mica. A dark grey fabric with a buff external margin, possibly with a surface wash or slurry and spots of yellow glaze.

No specific parallels, but again reminiscent of early reduced wares such as reduced greenware type 1 in Newcastle,<sup>21</sup> though less heavily gritted.

*Fabric 7:*

A soft smooth fabric with moderate inclusions of fine quartz, iron ore and mica. Mid grey with oxidised pinkish buff areas on the external surface where the patchy light green glaze is absent.

No exact parallel, but similar wares (reduced greenware type 3)<sup>22</sup> occurred in early fourteenth-century contexts in Newcastle.

*Fabric 8:*

Sandy, rather soft, fabric with abundant fine quartz, iron ore and mica. A light grey fabric with internal brown and pinkish brown margins and patchy external olive green glaze.

No particular parallels, possibly a fourteenth-century type.

*Fabric 9:*

Sandy, fairly hard fabric, with moderate fine to medium quartz and iron ore inclusions, mica visible on the surfaces. Light grey core, buff margins and dark brown external surface where the patchy olive green glaze is absent.

No parallels, possibly a similar date to fabric 8. The single sherd of this ware is a fragment of a base, probably a jug.

*Fabric 10:*

Hard, smooth fabric with moderate, very fine and occasional medium quartz temper, and fine iron ore and mica. The internal margin is a bright pinkish red, as are patches of the external surface. The core is a consistent mid grey, and the external surfaces, under glaze, light grey. The light olive green glaze is thin and patchy, but glossy.

This type can be identified with fabric 26 from Holy Island,<sup>23</sup> where it occurred in small quantities in all but the earliest phases. On the basis of the potting technique, it appears to be a late fourteenth and fifteenth-century ware.

*Fabric 11: Tweed Valley Ware:*

Hard smooth fabric, but with powdery surfaces, apparently from a thin clay wash or slurry. Moderate inclusions of fine and medium quartz grains, and abundant medium to coarse iron ore. Generally a pale buff colour with some darker buff external surfaces, and pale grey reduced core or internal surfaces.

An early medieval type (thirteenth-century onwards) found at Holy Island (fabric 3),<sup>24</sup> and other Border sites such as Oil Mill Lane, Berwick (type 1).<sup>25</sup>

One vessel is probably a jug while the other sherds, which are sooted externally, probably represent cooking pots.

*Fabric 12: Coulston Type Ware:*

A hard fabric abundantly tempered with fine to medium quartz, quartzite and iron ore, with abundant fine mica visible on the surfaces. The sherds are mainly a pinkish buff colour with a light grey reduced core. One sherd is splashed with yellow and light green glaze externally, the others apparently have a thin clay wash over the external surface. All are sooted externally, and one is also extensively blackened internally.

An early medieval ware (thirteenth to fourteenth-century) of similar type was also found at Holy Island (type 8a),<sup>26</sup> which may be a product of the kiln site at Colstoun.

*Fabric 13: Coulston Type Ware:*

The fabric is hard and smooth, with a moderate temper of mainly fine quartz and iron ore, with the occasional medium or coarse inclusion. The internal margins are light pinkish buff, and the rest of the fabric reduced to a light to mid grey. All fragments are fully glazed externally with a dark to light olive green glaze.

This ware is also paralleled at Holy Island (type 8b),<sup>27</sup> and is similar to products of the Colstoun kiln site.

A sherd from layer 25 is a very similar fabric but more abundantly quartz gritted, and glazed both internally and externally.

*Fabric 14: Unknown oxidised ware, possibly local:*

A hard, orange/buff fabric with abundant fine to medium quartz and iron ore inclusions and mica. External orange/brown glaze, light pinkish red surface internally and where the glaze is absent externally. The fragment appears to be from the shoulder of a jug.

**Non-Local Wares**

**Rhenish Stonewares**

*Fabric 15: Raeren/Aachen mugs.*<sup>28</sup>

*Fabric 16: Cologne/Frechen mugs.*<sup>29</sup>

All the fragments are undecorated.

*Fabric 17: Raeren/Aachen or Cologne semi-vitrified wares:*

A hard cream fabric, with external brown salt glaze, from the same potteries as the stonewares but fired to a lower temperature.

**Low Countries Redwares**

*Fabric 18: Glazed Redwares:*

Three fragments are of the late medieval to early post-medieval type with full external glazing, and one fragment (layer 12/13) is of the earlier, thin-walled, type with splashed glaze.<sup>30</sup>

*Fabric 19: Unglazed Redware:*

A fairly soft, sandy fabric with abundant fine and medium quartz, fine and occasional coarse iron and mica, and occasional very fine white mineral inclusions. Largely oxidised to a light orange red colour, with brown/orange surfaces and a mid grey reduced core.

The clay type and abundant temper seems to be similar to some grey ware fabrics, and accords with the description given of unglazed oxidised wares from late medieval and early post-medieval contexts in Norwich.<sup>31</sup> One vessel also has a spot of glaze, indicating that it may have been fired with glazed wares, a characteristic noted by Frans Verhaeghe on examination of the Norwich material.

**Martincamp Flasks<sup>32</sup>**

*Fabric 20a: Type I, earthenware, fifteenth to sixteenth century*

*Fabric 20b: Type II, stoneware, sixteenth century*

**Weser Slipware<sup>33</sup>**

*Fabric 21:*

The production of this ware began at the end of the sixteenth century, but it is usually found as an import to Britain in early to mid seventeenth-century contexts.

**Post-Medieval Tin-Glazed Wares**

*Fabric 22:*

All the sherds are very small and abraded, but appear to be mainly English wares ranging in date from one small chip of a Malling mug (layer 32) of the late sixteenth century, to late seventeenth or probably eighteenth-century wares.

**Post-Medieval Redwares**

The group illustrates the continuity of this tradition from sixteenth- and seventeenth-century styles and forms, with gradually improving technical quality into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some of these wares, which are unprovenanced, may come from potteries within the region, especially the later wares.

*Fabric 23: Metropolitan (Essex) Redwares.<sup>34</sup>*

A fairly soft fabric with fine to very sparse quartz, and occasional coarse iron ore inclusions. A fairly consistent light pinkish red colour, occasionally with a reduced core. Lead glazing is predominantly internal except on mugs, which are glazed internally and externally. Slip-coating and slip-trailed decoration is common on table wares. Vessel forms include a kitchen bowl of the type commonly found in Newcastle,<sup>35</sup> plates and a mug. These wares date from the first to the third quarter of the seventeenth century.

*Fabric 24:*

A soft, sandy, dark red fabric with abundant fine and very fine quartz, iron ore and mica inclusions. Very similar to that of the majority of Blackwares from the Bastion Ditch in Newcastle.<sup>36</sup> Iron-stained glazes occur here, including blackware and internally slip-coated bowls and dishes with mottled iron-stained glaze. Probably contemporary with the metropolitan wares but may, on the evidence from this site, have been produced into the eighteenth century.

*Fabric 25:*

A hard, dark red fabric with moderate inclusions of fine quartz, iron ore and mica, reduced in some areas to mid grey. One vessel has internal orange/brown to olive green glaze, and slip-trailed decoration. Probably seventeenth-century.

*Fabric 26:*

Fairly hard, consistent light brick red fabric with abundant very fine quartz and iron ore inclusions, and a full cover of glossy chestnut lead glaze (including on bases). Forms include bowls derived from the common kitchen type in the seventeenth century (see above) and cups, one clearly derived from the common blackware forms. One of the bowl rim fragments is decorated with a band of slip-coating. Late seventeenth- or eighteenth-century?

*Fabric 27: Derived Cistercian wares?:*

This group consists of the sherds of two cups, and the base of a third burnt cup. The form of the cup rims is very similar to the latest Cistercian type from the Castle Ditch in Newcastle.<sup>37</sup> The decoration on both cups consists of large round spots of white clay

apparently applied as slip, not in the stiff pellet form of the true Cistercian ware. The fabric of one cup is typically Cistercian: hard, dark red, with sparse fine, and very occasional medium, quartz inclusions, and with a dark purplish brown glaze. The second cup is apparently fired at a lower temperature, and the fabric and glaze are very similar to fabric 26.

*Fabric 28: White Salt-Glazed Stoneware.*<sup>38</sup>

Early to late eighteenth-century. Forms include flanged rims of plates, and rim and handle fragments of mugs.

*Fabric 29: Creamware:*

First manufactured in 1730, an extremely common tableware by the later eighteenth and early nineteenth century.<sup>39</sup>

Tyneside potteries were manufacturing some creamwares up to the second half of the nineteenth century.<sup>40</sup>

*Fabric 30: Brown Stoneware:*

A buff stoneware with streaky iron-stained brown glaze. Brown stonewares were produced in various centres from the late seventeenth century, and very commonly in the eighteenth century.<sup>41</sup> The fragments are all from the same vessel, probably a tea or coffee pot or globular jug.

*Fabric 31: Fully developed modern redware:*

A hard consistent dark red fabric with moderate inclusions of fine quartz, iron ore and mica, and thick, glossy dark brown glaze. From the late eighteenth century onwards.

B. OTHER FINDS

**The Glass**

Glass, mainly of seventeenth-century types, was recovered from a small number of contexts.

*Window Glass*

Two fragments of seventeenth-century window glass were recovered from layers 7 and 26.

*Crystal Vessel Glass*

One fragment, probably from a seventeenth-century wine glass of round funnel type,<sup>42</sup> was recovered from layer 26.

*Sack Bottle*

Two fragments of the base of a sack bottle (mid seventeenth-century to end of the eighteenth) were recovered from layer 1.

**Clay Tobacco Pipes**

The pipes are listed by context (table 1), and related to the national type series established by Adrian Oswald,<sup>43</sup> the basic North-east type series devised by Eric Parsons<sup>44</sup> and the Tyneside series, based on Parsons and Oswald and recently excavated material from Newcastle, by Lloyd J. Edwards.<sup>45</sup>

*Table 1 Clay tobacco pipes.*

Context	Bowl Type	Stem Bore	Stamp Type	Date
1	Tyneside 3a Tyneside 14	6/64 5/64		1650–1675 1700–1780
4	Fragment only			Late 17th- early 18th century
2	Oswald 11b	4/64		1790-mid 19th-century
7	Oswald 8b cf. Tyneside 11	7/64	Tyneside E & B	1680–1720
19		7/64		17th-century

**Clay Marbles**

Three were recovered from (1 and 2).

**Building Materials**

*Clay roof tiles*

Two fragments of clay plain tiles<sup>46</sup> in a streaky, light red fabric with moderate medium quartz inclusions and sparse coarse iron ore. Unglazed apart from a spot which indicates firing with glazed products. One surface is rough (sand moulded) and one scraped smooth. Thickness 12mm. (26).

These could be either peg or nib tiles of the type known from sites such as Battle Abbey<sup>47</sup> and Wharham.<sup>48</sup> Small quantities were also recovered from the

Castle Ditch in Newcastle, in late sixteenth-century contexts which, however, contained large quantities of residual late medieval material.<sup>49</sup>

### *Bricks*

Brick, rough red fabric, 116mm wide x 55mm thick. (1)

Brick, rough red fabric, 50mm thick. (2)

### *Stone roof flags*

Corner of sandstone roof flag 18mm thick, with circular peg hole 10mm in diameter. (13)

Corner of sandstone roof flag 16mm thick. One complete peg hole 7mm in diameter, and the hint of a second, broken, one. Unstratified.

### *Worked stone*

Fragment with shallow chamfer on one edge, 49mm thick. (2)

### **Coins**

Farthing of William & Mary, 1690. (6)

Penny of George III, ? (2)

### **Metal Objects**

#### *Copper Alloy*

End of a bronze pestle. The form is unchanged from the late medieval period. (25)

Shoe buckle. Late eighteenth-century type. (2)

Coat button in solid white metal with cone shank. Probably 1820s. (2)

Domed button with remains of leather shank. Post 1800. (2)

Rim fragment of a bronze cauldron. (1)

Formless lump. (24/27)

#### *Lead and Lead Alloy*

Fragment of lead sheeting. (24/27)

Tapering rod, 5–10mm diameter, 75mm long. (32)

Two melted lumps of lead sheeting. (32)

Spindle whorl with raised decoration arranged in panels. Both the form and decoration are very similar to an example excavated at a village house site at West Hartburn,<sup>50</sup> dating probably

from the thirteenth century and clearly abandoned by the late sixteenth. Another example from Wharram<sup>51</sup> was recovered from a post-medieval phase. The context here is late or post-medieval. (22)

Formless lump. (13)

Four fragments of window comes. (2)

### *Iron*

Nail, 60mm long with a square shank and broad, flat, roughly circular head c. 35mm in diameter. Similar nails were recovered at Kings Lynn<sup>52</sup> in contexts from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. (24/27)

Nail, 70mm long, square shank and broad, probably roughly circular, head, incomplete. Type similar to above. (24/27)

Horseshoe nail. Rectangular head, 8 x 6mm, square shank, 20mm long. A number of these nails were recovered at Sandal Castle<sup>53</sup> in a context dated 1645, but the type occurs from the late fourteenth century.<sup>54</sup> (24/27)

Nail, 47mm long. Apparently similar to the modern 'lost head' type used for general carpentry. (24/27)

Ring. 30mm in diameter. (24/27)

Nail, 32mm long, square shank and rectangular, incomplete, head. (13)

Large nail or spike, 130mm long. (32)

Nail? Possibly the broad-headed type described above. 55mm long. (32)

Two formless lumps. (32)

Nail, 70mm long. (25)

Two nails, 40mm long. (25)

Tool? with socket and attaching rivet, and short pointed blade. (25)

Iron tang between two wooden strips, originally held by small rivets. Handle, probably of a knife. (25)

Three formless lumps. (25)

Nail, 40mm long. (20)

Hinge pivot?<sup>55</sup> or door sneck? Long length 60mm, short length 35mm. (7)

Chisel head with incomplete square shank. (2)

Eye (from hook-and-eye), 15mm x 15mm? (incomplete). Apparently hand-made. Probably not later than early nineteenth century. (1)

## 2. ANIMAL BONES

*Louisa Gidney**Table 2 Fragment Counts for the Species present.*

Species	Counts
Cattle	54
Sheep/Goat	98
Sheep	4
Pig	22
c f Pig	1
Horse	2
Dog	7
Cat	1
Hare	1
Large Ungulate	34
Small Ungulate	39
Large Mammal	45
Indeterminate	37
Frog/Toad	1
Fowl	6
Goose	8
c f Goose	2
Pigeon	1
c f Wader	1
Indet Bird	5

*Table 3 Butchery and Gnaw Marks.*

	No. of Frags
Chop marks	32
Knife marks	1
Burnt	4
Canid gnawing	65
Rodent gnawing	2

*Table 4 Skeletal Representation.*

	Cattle & L. Ung.	Sheep/ Goat & S. Ung.	Pig
Skull	5	13	3
Jaw	4	8	5
Scapula	1	7	1
Humerus	4	10	4
Radius & Ulna	6	10	
Cervical Vertebra	3	8	1
Thoracic Vertebra	6	2	
Lumbar Vertebra	4	5	2
Ribs	19	19	
Pelvis	3	9	1
Femur & Patella	3	9	
Tibia	6	20	1
Carpals	2		
Tarsals	5	5	3
Sesamoids	1		
Metacarpal	4	3	1
Metatarsal	5	4	
Phalanges	4		

## 3. SUMMARY OF THE FINDS BY CONTEXT

*Margaret Ellison**Table 5 Finds between walls (18) and (3/9).*

Context	Object	Type	Quantity	Date
(24/27)	Pottery:			
	Reduced greenware	10	3	C14–15
	Reduced greenware	3	1	Late C14 – C15
	Reduced greenware	8	3	C14?
	Reduced greenware	9	1	C14?
	Lead strip		1	
	Iron nails, various		4	Early C15?
	Iron ring		1	
	Copper alloy lump		1	
	Animal bones		56	
(21)	Animal bones		20	

*Table 6 Finds north of (outside) wall (11).*

Context	Object	Type	Quantity	Date
(28)	Pottery: Tweed Valley ware	11	1	C13 (to late med.?)
	Animal bone	1		
(26)	Pottery:			
	Reduced greenware	3	2	Late C14–C15
	Reduced greenware	4	1	C15–early C16
	Reduced greenware	6	1	Early med.?
	Oxidised greenware	1	1	Late C14–C15
	Tweed Valley ware	11	1	C13 (to late med.?)
	Colstoun type ware	13	1	C13/C14
	Cologne/Frechen	16	2	Mid-late C16
	Martincamp flask I	20a	1	C15/C16
	Weser ware	21	1	Early C17
	Metropolitan redware	23	1	Mid-late C17
	L. Countries unglazed redware	19	1	Late med./early post-med.
	Clay plain tiles		2	Med.-post-med.
	Glass:			
	Crystal vessel		1	C17
	Window		1	C17
	Animal bones		36	
(14)	Pottery: Tweed Valley ware		1	C13 (to late med.)
	Animal bones		5	
(16)	Animal bones		7	

Table 7 Finds within the building.

Context	Object	Type	Quantity	Date
(32)	Pottery:			
	Oxidised greenware	1	2	Late C14–C15
	Unknown oxidised ware	14	1	Late med.?
	Reduced greenware	2	1	Late C14–C15
	Reduced greenware	3	2	Late C14–C15?
	Reduced greenware	4	3	C15–early C16?
	Raeren/Aachen stoneware	15	3	C15-mid C16?
	Cologne/Frechen	16	1	Mid-late C16
	Martincamp flask I	20a	2	C15/C16
	Martincamp flask II	20b	1	C16
	Semi-vitrified Raeren/Aachen	17	1	C15-mid C16
	L. Countries redware	18	2	C16 type
	Tin-glazed ware (Malling)	22	1	Later C16
	Lead:			
	Tapering rod		1	
	Lumps of melted sheet		2	
	Iron:			
Rod		1		
Nail		1	C13–C15	
Lumps		2		
(25)	Pottery:			
	Oxidised greenware	1	1	Late C14–C15
	Colstoun type ware	13	1	C13–C14
	Raeren/Aachen stoneware	15	1	C15-mid C16
	Martincamp flask II	20b	1	C16
	Cologne/Frechen	16	1	Mid-late C16
	Semi-vitrified Raeren/Aachen	17	1	C15-mid C16
	Iron:			
	Nails		5	
	Socketed tool		1	
Wood and iron: Knife handle		1		
Copper alloy: End of pestle		1	Late med. – C19	
Animal bones		28		
(22)	Pottery:			
	Raeren/Aachen stoneware	15	1	C15-mid C16
	Cologne/Frechen	16	1	Mid-late C16
	Lead: Spindle whorl		1	C13–C16
Animal bones		4		
(19)	Pottery: Oxidised greenware	1	1	Late C14–C15
	Clay pipe stem		1	C17
	Animal bones		78	

Table 8 Finds in destruction layers.

Context	Object	Type	Quantity	Date	
(7)	Pottery				
	Reduced greenware		2	1	Late C14–C15
	Cologne/Frechen		16	1	Mid-late C16
	Raeren/Aachen stoneware		15	2	C15-mid C16
	Metropolitan redware		23	1	Mid-late C17
	Tin-glazed ware		22	1	Late C17
	Creamware		29	1	1730–C19
	Clay pipes	Oswald 8b		1	1680–1720
	Glass: Window			1	C17
	Iron: Door sneck/hinge pivot			1	
	Animal bones			27	
(6)	Pottery				
	Raeren/Aachen stoneware		15	1	C15-mid C16
	Metropolitan redware		23	3	Mid-late C17
	Tin-glazed ware		22	1	Late C17
	White salt-glazed stoneware		28	1	Early-late C18
	Coin: William & Mary farthing			1	1690
Animal bones			6		
(2)	Pottery				
	Reduced greenware		2	1	Late C14–C15
	Cologne/Frechen		16	1	Mid-late C16
	Raeren/Aachen stoneware		15	1	C15-mid C16
	Tin-glazed ware		22	3	Late C17/C18
	Metropolitan redware		23	4	Mid-late C17
	Redware		24	9	C17–C18
	Cistercian derived		27	3	Late C16 or C17
	White salt-glazed stoneware		28	2	Early-late C18
	Creamware		29	4	1730–C19
	Buff stoneware		30	7	C18–early C19
	Clay pipe	Oswald 11b		1	1790-mid C19
	Clay marble			1	
	Coin: George III penny			1	
	Lead: Window comes			4	
Copper alloy: Shoe buckle			1	C18	
White metal: Button			1	C19	

Table 9 Finds in topsoil.

Context	Object	Type	Quantity	Date
(1)	Pottery			
	Reduced greenware	2	1	Late C14–C15
	Reduced greenware	4	1	C15–early C16
	Cologne/Frechen	16	1	Mid-late C16
	Metropolitan redware	23	4	Mid-late C17
	Tin-glazed ware	22	1	C18?
	Redware	24	1	C17–C18
	Redware	26	2	C18
	Cistercian derived	27	1	C17?
	White salt-glazed stoneware	28	4	Early-late C18
	Creamware	29	3	1730–C19
	Clay pipes			
	Tyneside 3a		1	1650–75
	Tyneside 14		1	1700–80
	Clay marbles		2	
	Glass: Sack bottle		1	Mid C17–late C18
	Copper alloy:			
	Button		1	post 1800?
	Fragment cauldron		1	Late med. onwards
	Iron: Hook and eye		1	Early C19 onwards

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For Kenneth H. Vickers' summary of its history, and the first detailed description of Etal castle, with a ground plan drawn by W. H. Knowles, see *NCH*, 11 (1922), 460–70. The most recent account is in N. Pevsner, *Northumberland* [Penguin Buildings of England] 2nd ed., Harmondsworth (1992), 274.

<sup>2</sup> The forebuilding was excavated by Rob Burns and Margaret Finch for English Heritage. The base of the newel stair, and details of the passageway and its means of defence, are now displayed. A note on this work was published in the second edition of I. S. Nelson's guide to Etal Castle, privately printed (1988). The gatehouse watching brief by Alan Whitworth is noted in *Medieval Archaeology*, 39 (1955), 235.

<sup>3</sup> AML Report 31/2000 by P. K. Linford.

<sup>4</sup> Lucy Bown, "The Pottery" in D. M. O'Sullivan, "An Excavation in Holy Island Village, 1977", *AA*<sup>5</sup>, 13 (1985), 47–80.

<sup>5</sup> Information from Lucy Bown.

<sup>6</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 71, 75.

<sup>7</sup> H. Evans and M. G. Jarrett, "The Deserted Village of West Whelpington, Northumberland: Third Report, Part One", *AA*<sup>5</sup>, 15 (1987), 199–308.

<sup>8</sup> J. C. Coleman-Smith and T. Pearson, "Medieval Pottery from Sewingshields" in D. Haigh and M. Savage, "Sewingshields", *AA*<sup>5</sup>, 12 (1984), 125–32.

<sup>9</sup> S. Moorhouse, "The Pottery" in J. R. Hunter, "Medieval Berwick-upon-Tweed", *AA*<sup>5</sup>, 10 (1982), Table 2.

<sup>10</sup> M. Ellison, "The Pottery" in Barbara Harbottle and Margaret Ellison, "An Excavation in the Castle Ditch, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1974–1976", *AA*<sup>5</sup>, 9 (1981), fig. 6.

<sup>11</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, 100.

<sup>12</sup> Hunter, *op. cit.*, 83.

<sup>13</sup> John Allan, "Some post-medieval documentary evidence for the trade in ceramics" in P. Davey and R. Hodges eds., *Ceramics and Trade*, Sheffield (1983), 43. Allan suggests that, in the post-medieval period, overland transport was eight to ten times more costly than sea transport.

<sup>14</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 64.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*, 62.

<sup>16</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, 108.

<sup>17</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, nos. 45, 46.

<sup>18</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 63.

<sup>19</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 64.

- <sup>20</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, 108, and nos. 48, 49, 52.
- <sup>21</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, 107.
- <sup>22</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, 108.
- <sup>23</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 70.
- <sup>24</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 52.
- <sup>25</sup> Moorhouse, *op. cit.*, Type 1, 113.
- <sup>26</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 56.
- <sup>27</sup> Bown, *op. cit.*, 58.
- <sup>28</sup> J. G. Hurst, D. S. Neal, H. J. E. Van Beuningen, *Pottery Produced and Traded in North- West Europe 1350–1650* [Rotterdam papers, 6], Den Haag (1986), 190–5.
- <sup>29</sup> *ibid.*, 208, 214 and no. 332.
- <sup>30</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, 130.
- <sup>31</sup> Sarah Jennings, “Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich”, *East Anglian Archaeology*, 13 (1981), 142.
- <sup>32</sup> J. G. Hurst, “Martincamp Flasks” in D. S. Neal, “Excavations at the Palace of King’s Langley, Hertfordshire, 1974–1976”, *Medieval Archaeology*, 21 (1977), 156–7.
- <sup>33</sup> J. G. Hurst, “Weser Slipware from Britain and North America” in H.-G. Stephan, “Copengrave – Studien zur Töpferei des 13–19. Jahrhunderts in Nordwestdeutschland”, *Materialhefte zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Niedersachsens*, 17 (1981), 142–5.
- <sup>34</sup> Margaret Ellison, “Pottery” in Margaret Ellison, Margaret Finch and Barbara Harbottle, “The Excavation of a 17th-century pit at the Black Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1975”, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 13 (1979), 159.
- <sup>35</sup> Margaret Ellison, “The Pottery” in Margaret Ellison and Barbara Harbottle, “The Excavation of a 17th-Century Bastion in the Castle of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1976–81”, *AA*<sup>5</sup>, 11 (1983), no. 52.
- <sup>36</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, 155.
- <sup>37</sup> Ellison, *op. cit.*, no. 328.
- <sup>38</sup> Jennings, *op. cit.*, 222.
- <sup>39</sup> *ibid.*, 227.
- <sup>40</sup> R. C. Bell and M. A. V. Gill, *The Potteries of Tyneside*, Newcastle (1973), Plate Ac.
- <sup>41</sup> Jennings, *op. cit.*, 219.
- <sup>42</sup> Cf. Ellison, *op. cit.*, fig. 13, no. 97.
- <sup>43</sup> A. Oswald, “The Evolution and Chronology of English Clay Tobacco Pipes”, *Archaeological News Letter*, 7, No. 3 (1961), 55–61.
- <sup>44</sup> J. E. Parsons, “The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe in North-east England”, *AA*<sup>4</sup>, 42 (1964), 231–54.
- <sup>45</sup> Lloyd Edwards, “The Clay Tobacco Pipes” in Barbara Harbottle and R. Fraser, “Black Friars, Newcastle upon Tyne, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries”, *AA*<sup>5</sup>, 15 (1987), 105–20.
- <sup>46</sup> Terminology used in R.W. Brunskill, *Vernacular Architecture*, London (1970), 86–7.
- <sup>47</sup> A. D. F. Streeten, “Roof tiles and roof furniture” in J. N. Hare, *Battle Abbey, The Eastern Range and Excavations, 1978–80* [HBMCE., Archaeol. Report, 2] London (1985), 93–97.
- <sup>48</sup> J. C. Thorn, “The Camera in Area 10” in J. G. Hurst, ed., *Wharram, A Study of Settlement in the Yorkshire Wolds*, 1 [Society for Medieval Archaeology, Monograph 8] London (1979), fig. 24.
- <sup>49</sup> Harbottle and Ellison, *op. cit.*, 173.
- <sup>50</sup> L. Still and A. Pallister, “The Excavation of one House Site in the Deserted Village of West Hartburn, Co. Durham”, *AA*<sup>4</sup>, 42 (1964), fig. 5 no. 1.
- <sup>51</sup> A. R. Goodall, “Lead and Lead Alloy Objects” in J. G. Hurst, *op. cit.* (note 48), fig. 59 no. 3.
- <sup>52</sup> I. H. Goodall and A. Carter, “Iron Objects” in H. Clarke and A. Carter, *Excavations in Kings Lynn 1963–1970*, London (1977), fig. 135, nos. 65, 66.
- <sup>53</sup> I. H. Goodall, “Iron Objects” in P. Mayes and L. A. S. Butler, *Sandal Castle Excavations 1964–1973*, Wakefield (1983), fig. 10 no. 223.
- <sup>54</sup> London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue*, London (1954), fig. 36, 12 (1361) and fig. 37, 5 (15th or early 16th century).
- <sup>55</sup> Goodall and Carter, *op. cit.* (note 52), fig. 133, 16.