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Excavations carried out at Newgate Street, Newcastle upon Tyne,
1997–2000*Graeme Young*

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation, excavation and watching brief were conducted by AOC Archaeology Group between September 1997 and October 2000 at Newgate Street, Newcastle upon Tyne (NGR: NZ 2450 6427). The excavation at Newgate Street has identified a sequence of timber structures in the eastern part of the development area adjacent to and aligned with Low Friar Street. Two phases of these structures pre-dated the establishment of the Dominican Friary in AD 1239. The earliest phase of activity comprised fragmentary remains of two 12th to 13th-century timber buildings (Buildings A and B), which were replaced during Phase 2 by a further three timber structures (Buildings C, D and E). Phase 3 saw the foundation of the Dominican Friary, the northern part of which lay within the development site. The stone wall demarking the limit of the friary precinct was exposed in two areas, in the western part of the site and adjacent to Low Friar Street. A solidly constructed clay and rubble foundation of a stone building (Building F) was identified within the main excavation area. During Phase 4 a further stone building (Building G) was constructed in the northern part of the excavation to the north of Low Friar Lane.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation, excavation and watching brief were conducted by AOC Archaeology Group at Newgate Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, National Grid

Reference NZ 2450 6427, on behalf of Land Securities Limited as a result of development of The Gate, Leisure Complex (fig. 1). Three trenches (Trial Trench 1–3) were excavated during the evaluation carried out in September and November 1997. Trial Trench 1 identified the presence of stratified archaeology in the area of the Low Friar Street car park, which led to the location of the main excavation within the car park immediately to the south of the trench. The excavation was undertaken between October 1999 and January 2000; site code BLFR 97. During the course of this investigation it became apparent that a further area of undisturbed stratigraphy lay beneath a building, to the north, demolished as part of the development. A further excavation was undertaken in this area during February 2000 following consultation with the County Archaeologist. This area of excavation was located 6 m to the north and immediately beyond Low Friar Lane; site code BF99. A Watching Brief was conducted during construction groundwork in the area of the east-west line of the friary precinct wall. This work was undertaken during September and October 2000. The excavation at Newgate Street identified a multi-phase medieval and post-medieval sequence of deposits. Five broad phases of activity were defined spanning some 700 years from the 13th to the 20th century. This publication concentrates on the medieval phases of activity identified within the development. A separate publication is to be undertaken detailing the evidence encountered for tanning at the site during the post-medieval period. The complete archive will be deposited with the Museum of Antiquities,

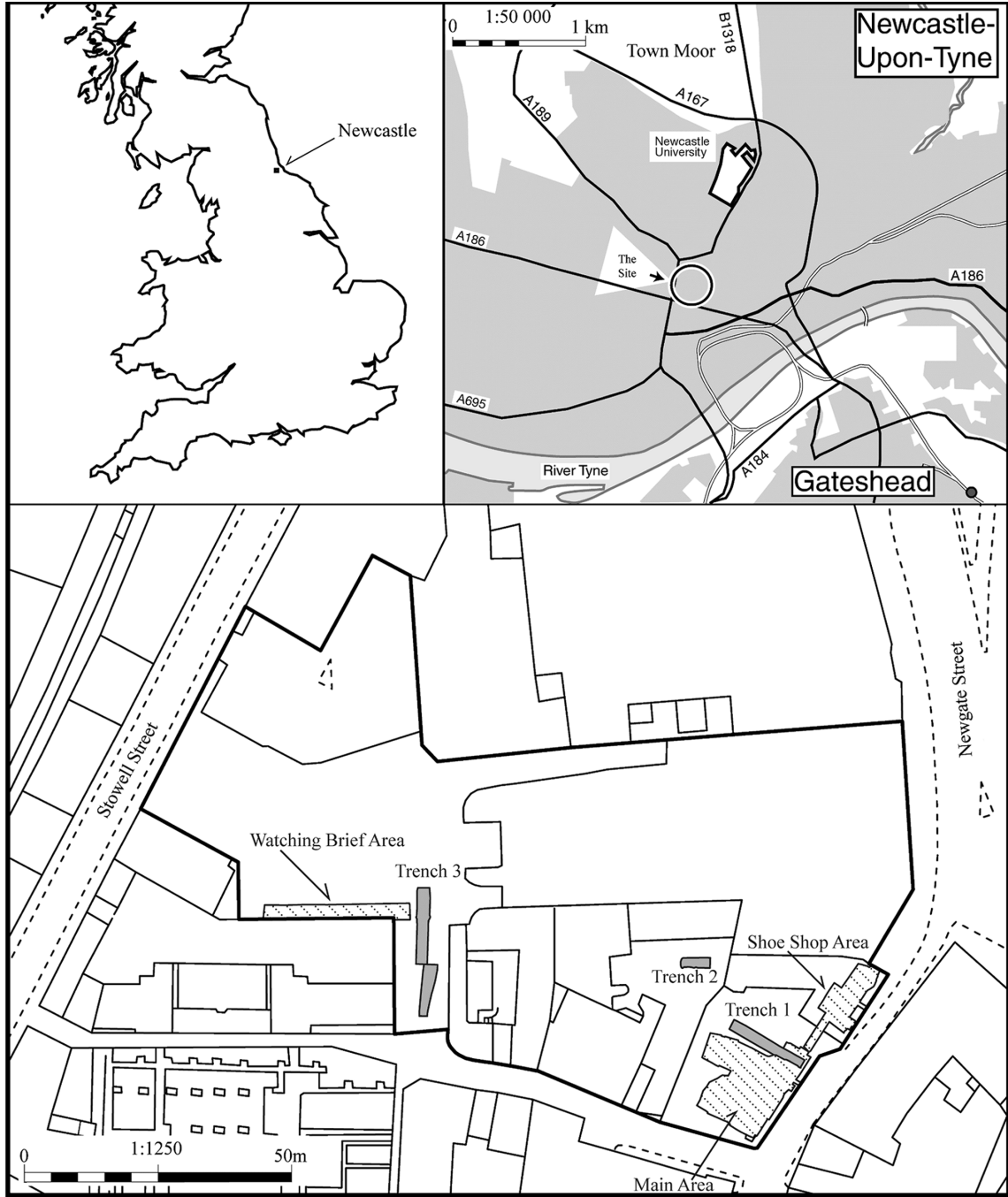


Fig. 1 Site location.

University of Newcastle upon Tyne. All of the historical maps mentioned in the text can be viewed at Northumberland Record Office.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Throughout history settlement at Newcastle has focused around the area of the castle. In Roman times the site was occupied by the most easterly fort on Hadrian's Wall defending the Roman bridge across the Tyne; *Pons Aelius*. In Anglo-Saxon times the vicinity of the old Roman fort at Newcastle came to be known as *Monkchester* after a small community of monks settled in the area. The later name Newcastle came into existence in 1080 when Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, built a wooden motte and bailey castle on the site of the Roman fort to defend the river crossing. A medieval walled town grew up around the castle which became an important stronghold in the northern defences against the Scots. Its military importance stimulated trade and commerce and the expanding town of Newcastle developed into a major sea port.

The medieval town was closely tied to the riverside area, where an early market existed at Cale Cross. In this area the 'chares', a series of narrow lanes containing warehouses and merchant's houses, stretched back from the riverside. To the north of the riverside area, and beyond the castle, development took place along a single, principle thoroughfare. This main axis became a continuous 'market street', where a variety of trades and retailing activities took place. A number of religious houses, established in the 12th and 13th centuries, occupied considerable open areas within the town walls. The south-eastern corner of the development area is located within the precinct of the former Dominican Friary, founded in 1239. Elements of the cloistral ranges still survive to the immediate south-west of Dispensary Lane. Investigation of a series of trial pits in advance of the Jacobin's Chare Housing Development in 1989, demonstrated that the friary cemetery and a medieval culvert extended into the area

(Upson 1997). In 1829 excavations at the east end of Low Friar Street revealed two east-west orientated skeletons thought to be associated with the friary cemetery. Following the Dissolution the church was demolished and the land leased out for agricultural and horticultural purposes (Fraser and Harbottle 1987). This semi-rural situation is well illustrated by James Corbridge's map of 1723-4, which shows that only the street frontages of this northern part of the town that have been developed, and that the land to the rear is still open. This is still much the case on Hutton's Plan of 1770, though the buildings on Newgate Street appear to have been extended further back from the frontage. In the 19th century the area was developed and used for small scale industries such as tanneries, timber yards and saw mills. By 1896 a significant section of the Newgate Street frontage was owned by the Newcastle upon Tyne Co-Operative Society and in 1930 the Co-Op Central Store occupied the whole north-east quadrant of the land block.

NATURAL DEPOSITS AND EARLY ACTIVITY

A yellow-brown clay was identified at the base of the archaeological sequence throughout the excavation area. It formed a relatively level surface sloping very gradually down from west to east (43.9-43.5 m OD) and from north to south (43.84-43.63 m OD). The earliest activity identified at the site was Roman. Small and abraded fragments of residual ceramic building material were found in contexts (1004, 1033, 1137, 1149, 1379 and 1409); indicating Roman activity in the vicinity. These fragments consisted of seven fragments of *tegula* and three of *imbrex*.

PHASE 1: FIRST PHASE OF PRE-FRIARY STRUCTURAL ACTIVITY, 12TH TO 13TH CENTURY (FIG. 2)

The evidence for the earliest phase of activity on the site was somewhat fragmentary due to

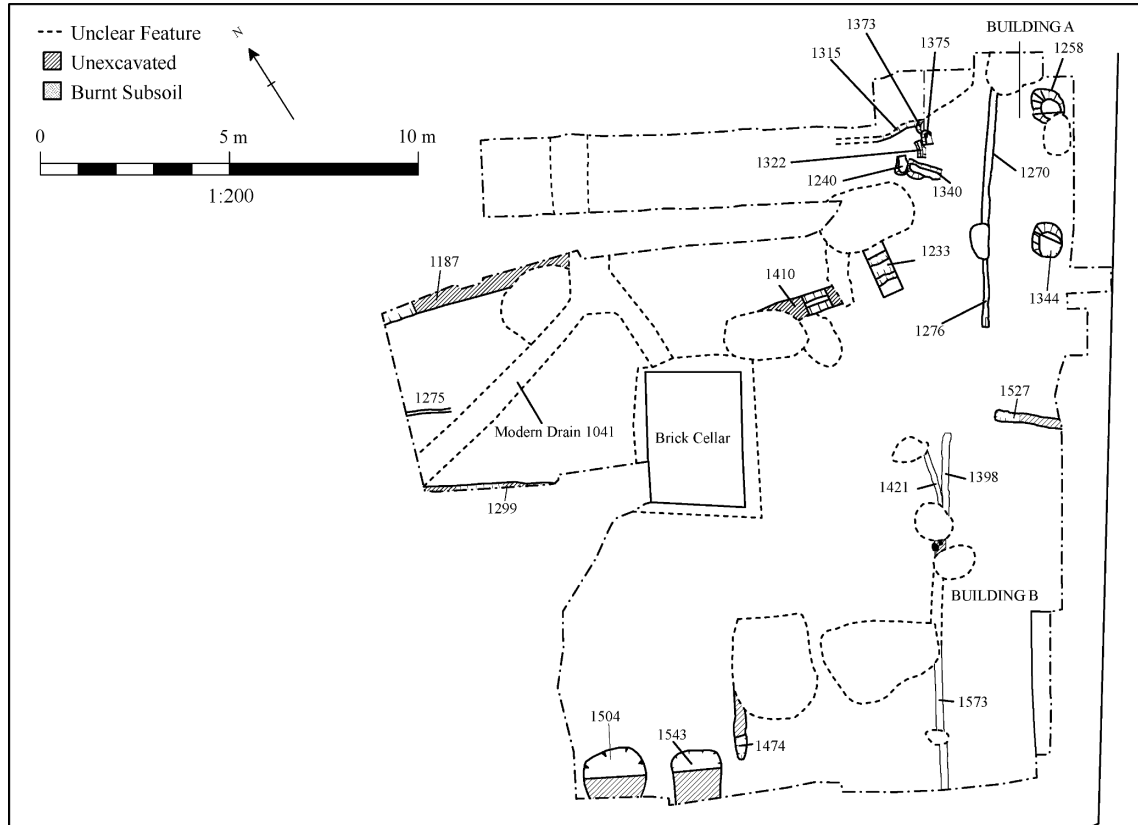


Fig. 2 Phase 1

truncation by later features and a degree of re-working of the subsoil, probably associated with levelling. Two timber buildings (Buildings A and B) lay in the eastern part of the site, aligned with the Low Friar Street frontage.

Building A

Building A, which lay in the north-east corner of the site, was defined by a beam slot [1270 and 1276] and two substantial post pits [1258 and 1344] that paralleled the beam slot some 1.5 m to the east. The slot, which represented the western wall of the building, had a southern terminus within the site but its northern extent was lost due to the presence of an intrusive feature. A rectangular setting for a

vertical plank was identified in the south-eastern corner of the slot. The modern site limit at the east side of the car park area is set back by *c.* 3.5 m from the original street front. As a result only the rear elements of buildings constructed on the street front would extend into the excavation area. Assuming that Building A had extended to the original street front it would have measured some 5.5 m east to west and more than 6 m north to south.

Building B

Building B lay 2 m to the south of Building A, and occupied the south-east corner of the site. It comprised three beam slots [1398, 1527 and

1573] and was 9.4 m+ north-south and would have been c. 6.5 m wide if it extended to the street frontage beyond the eastern limit of excavation.

Other Phase 1 Features

To the west of Building A were two beam slots or gullies [1315 and 1322] that met at right angles. They were cut by a post-hole [1373] which was in turn cut by a further linear feature [1375]. Two further features, a post-hole [1240] and an irregular-shaped pit or gully [1340] lay immediately to their south. All of these features were sealed by a re-deposited subsoil (1182) dated to the 13th century. The function of these features is unclear, though it is conceivable that they were the remnants of insubstantial structures broadly contemporary with Building A. A shallow gully [1233 and 1410] extended for 3 m on a SSW to NNE alignment to the west of Building A. The fill (1232) contained a sherd from an Early Reduced Greenware jug handle with a combed decoration; glazed olive green (fig. 9g). There were a further three east-west gullies [1187, 1275 and 1299] towards the western limit of the excavation area. These features were sealed by a re-deposited subsoil (1004) equated with (1182) and dated to the 13th to 14th century. This subsoil contained two sherds of intrusive early Rhenish Stoneware and a sherd of Buff White Ware jar rim (fig 7i). The re-working of the subsoil given its date could be related to the activity associated with the foundation of the friary. The gullies may have drained a yard area to the rear of Buildings A and B. A further linear feature [1474], measuring 1.9m, lay parallel to beam slot [1573], 5 m to the west. It is probable that it was related to Building B, which it paralleled.

Two substantial pits [1504 and 1543] were identified in the south-west corner of the excavation area. The pits were deep and near vertically sided; their structure suggests they are likely to represent post-pits for a post-built structure that was predominantly beyond the excavation area.

PHASE 2: SECOND PERIOD OF PRE-FRIARY ACTIVITY UP TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE DOMINICAN FRIARY, 13TH CENTURY (FIG. 3)

Evidence for further timber structures (Buildings C, D and E) were identified towards the eastern limit of the excavation area in the form of a series of post-holes and stone post-pads.

Building C

Building C was represented by three large post-pits [1111, 1214 and 1278] and nine smaller post-holes [1017, 1030, 1103, 1190, 1297, 1308, 1311, 1313 and 1425] that overlay Building A. The post-pits contained dark varied fills with clearly defined post-pipes. Post-pit [1278] contained charred and waterlogged palaeoenvironmental remains (see specialist reports). The post-holes were aligned at right angles with three smaller post-holes [1190, 1297 and 1308] outlying the main alignment.

Building D

It is thought that Building D was constructed as a replacement to Building C. Four post-pads, three in a line adjacent to the eastern limit of excavation with a fourth to the west, indicate the presence of a self-supporting timber building (Building D). A soil stain associated with the southern post-pad would appear to outline the remains of a timber superstructure forming the south-west corner of a structure. The presence of five pits [128, 1014, 1115, 1239 and 1331] located to the rear of the post-pads could be related to the structure. Pit fill (1330) contained a Buff White Ware sherd from a handled jar with an olive glazed exterior (fig. 8a).

Building E

A further post-pad based building (Building E) is indicated by the presence of four post-pads in the southern part of the excavation area. The post-pads closely followed the

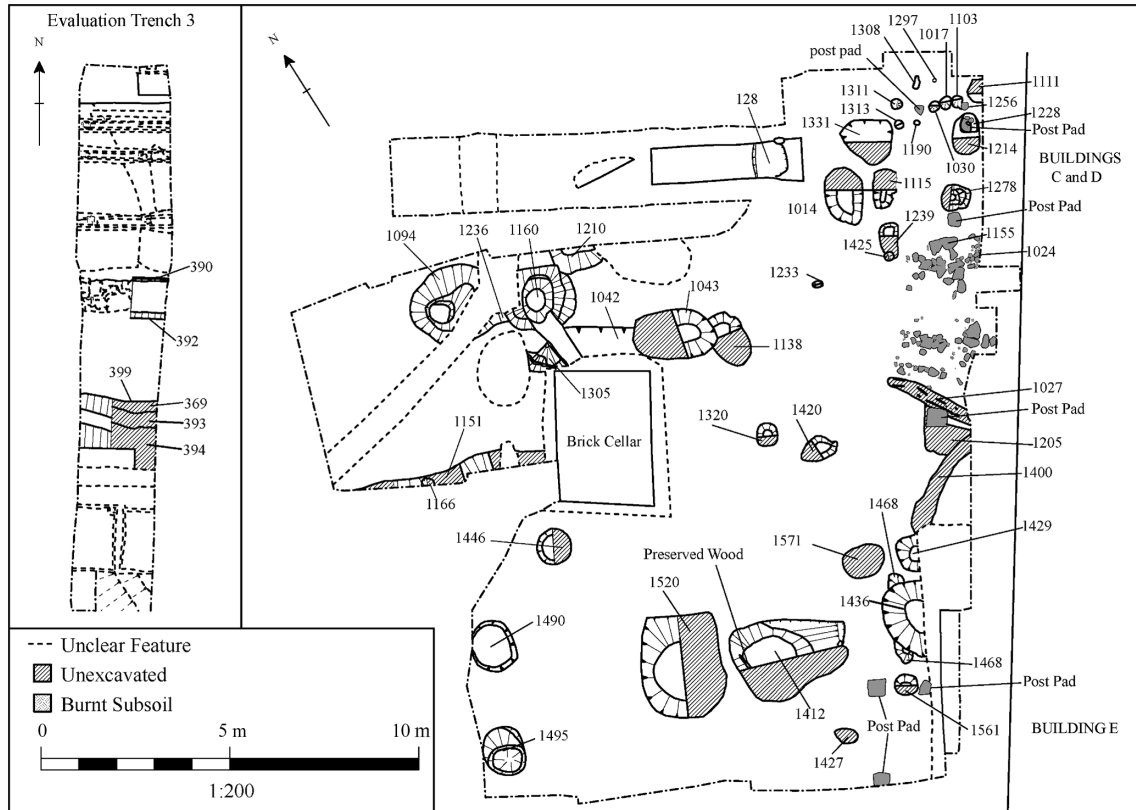


Fig. 3 Phase 2.

alignment of Building B and are likely to represent deliberate replacement of this building as Building D appears to have replaced Building C.

A spread of stones (1155 and 1024) dated to the 13th century from pottery within their matrix lay between Buildings D and E. The stone spread was somewhat intermittent but may have been the remnant of an alley leading from Low Friar Street. A north-west to south-east drain [1027], constructed from ceramic roof tile fragments laid on end, lay immediately to the south of the stones. The feature, although overlain by one of the post-pads from Building E, was broadly contemporary in

date to the stone surface as it contained 13th century pottery.

Boundary feature

An early boundary feature was identified in Trial Trench 3. This comprised a substantial linear cut feature [392] measuring 0.96 m wide and 0.84 m deep, located on the same alignment as the later Phase 3 friary wall. A very dark, near black, 0.1 m thick, band of compacted organic silt (390) was identified against the north side of the cut. This was interpreted as the remnant of a timber wall; an interpretation confirmed during excavation when

the base of one of the planks was recovered preserved anaerobically. At 0.14 m thick the timber baulks were clearly substantial and their depth suggests a wall of some height. The fill of the construction cut contained pottery of 13th century date and was sealed by a deposit containing pottery of mid 13th century date. A ditch [399] on the same alignment as the timber wall lay 3 m to the south. This feature, U-shaped in profile, 2 m wide and 0.95 m deep, contained five fills and the earliest of these (398 and 397) represented primary silting. This was overlain by a highly organic waste dumping layer (396). The upper fills (395 and 393/394) could be a deliberate backfill and if so this event can be dated to the mid 13th century by pottery evidence .

Other Phase 2 features

Two very large and somewhat irregularly shaped pits [1094 and 1160] lay in the western part of the excavation area. These features were 2.2 m and 1.98 m across and 1.1 m and 1 m deep respectively. The profile and the complex sequence of fills within these features have led to their interpretation as massive timber post-pits; the timbers from which were subsequently robbed and the pits filled with waste. Four waste pits [1412, 1429, 1436 and 1520], all dated to the 13th century by pottery evidence, lay in the southern part of the excavation area. Pits [1412 and 1520] were quite substantial, up to 3 m across and *c.* 0.7 m deep, and were waterlogged, thus preserving organic material. Pit [1436] contained pottery of 13th to 14th date in the upper fill (1435), which has been interpreted as levelling undertaken prior to the construction of the Phase 3 stone building. A further seven pits [1043, 1138 1210, 1305, 1446, 1490 and 1495] were dated to this phase. Two gullies [1042 and 1151] were attributed to this phase. Gully [1151] lay adjacent to the limit of excavation to the west and is likely to have served a drainage function. The gully fill (1150) contained a Buff White Ware jar rim with thumbing on the rim (fig. 7j) and pit fill (1100) of pit [1014] contained charred

and waterlogged palaeoenvironmental remains (see specialist reports)

PHASE 3: THE FOUNDATION OF THE DOMINICAN FRIARY, MID 13TH TO 14TH CENTURY (FIGS. 4 & 6)

The Dominican Friary was founded on land granted to the order in AD 1239 (Pevsner 1992, 431). The main area of excavation lay 100 m to the north-east of the centre of the cloister area and Low Friar Street represents the eastern boundary of the friary precinct. The foundations of a substantial building (Building F) were identified in the southern half of the excavation area and a pits and gullies were identified within the area to the north.

A stone lined drain [1120] extended into the excavation area from the northern limit of excavation and crossed the site to extend beyond the southern limit of excavation. Levels taken on the base of the feature towards its northern and southern extent indicate that it sloped down from north to south (44.73–43.33 m OD). A short length of the drain had subsided into the Phase 2 pit [1412] where anaerobic conditions had preserved timber planks lining the sides and the base of the stone slabs. Pottery of 13th to 14th century date was recovered from the construction trench for the drain and pottery of early 14th century date from the silt within the drain. A 2.8 m long east-west extension to the drain [1301] was seen in the central part of the excavation area but its purpose was uncertain. This feature pre-dated the construction of Building F.

Building F

The northern part of the foundation of a substantial building (Building F) was identified within the southern half of the excavated area. The north [1403], east [1450] and west [1451] sides of the building were exposed. The building measured 10 m east-west, and was exposed for 6.4 m north-south; the southern extent lying beyond the excavation area. The

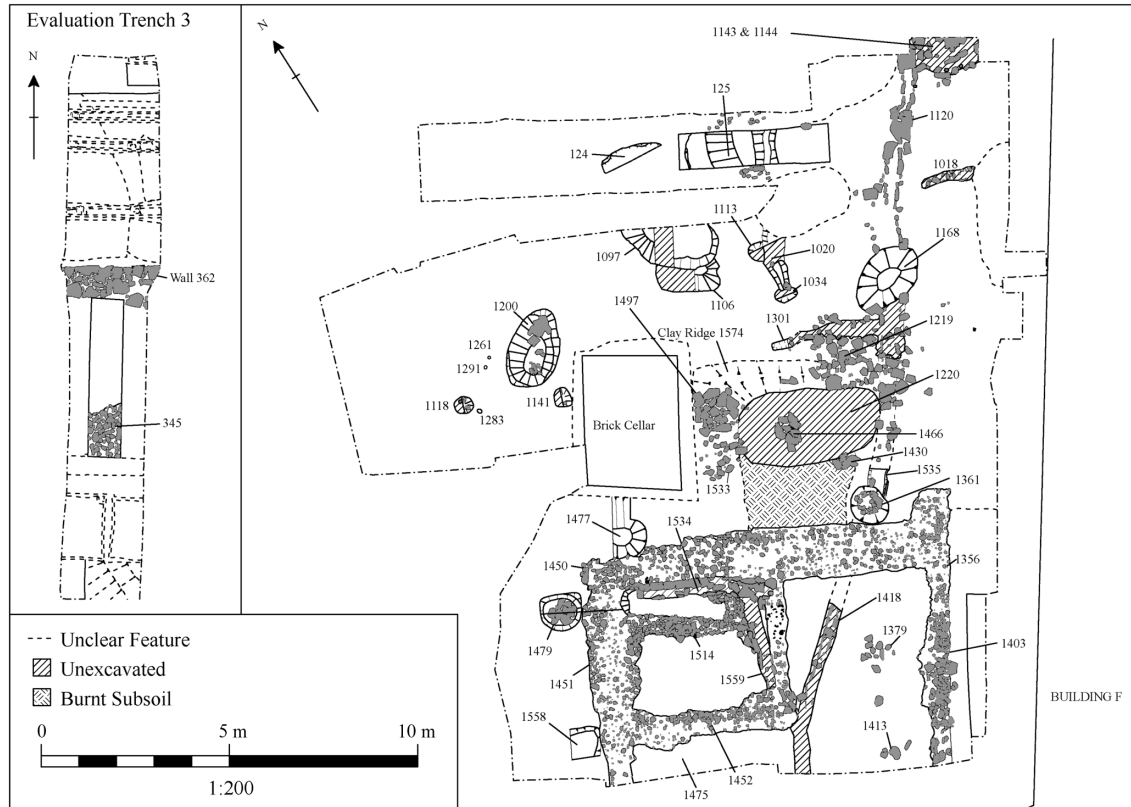


Fig. 4 Phase 3.

foundations of the perimeter walls were very substantial; 1.2 m wide and 0.4 m deep. They consisted of a U-shaped trench packed with yellow brown clay and irregular stone fragments. A room, 4 m east-west by 3.5 m north-south, lay in the north-west corner of the building, defined by an L-shaped wall foundation [1452]. This feature was less substantial than the external wall foundations, being only 0.6 m wide and 0.15 m deep. Four substantial post-holes [1361, 1477, 1479 and 1558] were identified adjacent to the northern and western walls. Pottery evidence indicated that the post-holes were broadly contemporary with the building. Two of the post-holes [1361 and 1479] contained packing stones and must have

held timber posts. The fill (1362) of post-hole [1361] contained a warped overfired nib tile which might suggest that tile was produced on site and that the kiln wasters were used a rubble fill. Fills (1481 and 1557) of [1479 and 1557] respectively contained waterlogged palaeoenvironmental remains (see specialist reports). Floor surfaces or the support for a laid floor surface, were identified in the form of three thin clay and stone spreads (1379, 1413 and 1475) recorded within the building. The presence of pottery of 13th to 14th century date was recovered from the foundations of the building and post-hole [1361]. The presence of early 14th century pottery within the upper fill of post-hole [1479] and within layer (1462),

which overlay surface (1475), would indicate a construction date for the building in the early 14th century.

Evidence for some of the internal arrangements of Building F survived at foundation level. A substantial rectangular stone foundation [1514], 3.3 m by 1.5 m and 0.4 m+ thick were set into the north-west corner of the small room. A stone-lined drain [1534] was set along the north wall of the building within the room and parallel to [1514]. This drain then extended southwards as drain [1559], passing beneath the internal partition wall and adjoining with drain [1418]; the southern part of drain [1120], indicating that this feature remained use following the construction of the building.

The Friary wall

An irregularly coursed but well-constructed stone wall [362] replaced the Phase 2 timber structure within Trial Trench 3. The wall was observed for 20 m in the Watching Brief. If it continuous around the precinct it is also represented by walls [2085 and 2091] in the northern excavation area, and was constructed prior to Phase 4 Building G. Ditch [399] was defunct by the mid 13th century and appears to have been deliberately backfilled (345) with cobbles. This deposit was dated to the mid 13th century by pottery and may coincide with the foundation of the friary. It can be speculated that this represented part of a yard or road adjacent to the boundary wall.

Other Phase 3 features

A large but relatively shallow pit [1220], 3.8 m east-west by 2 m north-south by 0.27 m deep, and dated to the mid 13th century by pottery evidence, was identified in the central part of the site. It contained a mixed sequence of fills and may have been used for waste disposal during the early part of the friary occupation of the site. The uppermost fill (1184) contained a near complete Scarborough Ware jug decorated with alternate rows of raspberry and wheatear bosses, glazed in green with patches

of yellow (fig. 10b) and two sherds of Buff White Ware jugs with sooted exteriors (figs. 7g & 7h). Fill (1212) contained a sherd of early Reduced Greenware from a shoulder jug with an applied thumbled strip decoration and an exterior olive glaze (fig. 9d).

Two rubble spreads (1219 and 1533) lay adjacent to the pit with a third (1497), immediately to the north of (1533), representing a deliberate surface. A distinct linear clay ridge (1574) extended from beneath layer (1219) on an east-west alignment, 4 m to the north of wall [1450]. Two further localised groups of stone (1430 and 1466) lay to the south-east of the clay ridge. The silt matrix that had accumulated between the stone spreads in all instances contained a high charcoal content and burning had discoloured the subsoil between pit [1220] and foundation [1450]. The upper fill (1184) within pit [1220] also displayed a high charcoal content at its upper surface, where numerous iron nails also lay. This unusual combination of features and finds has been interpreted as the remains of a timber structure, constructed on the clay ridge that had burned *in situ*. Pottery of 13th to 14th century date recovered from the surface of stone feature (1497) demonstrated it to be broadly contemporary with the construction of Building F. Seven further pits, [124=1097, 1106, 1144, 2021, 2030, 2032 and 2040] were attributed to this phase. Pit [1144], dated to the early 14th century, contained a substantial stone rubble content (1143) and may represent a waste pit or simply a hollow containing waste material. Two additional pits [1168 and 1200] lay to the north of Building F. Pit [1168] cut drain [1120] and contained a very dark grey-brown silty fill (1167) on the surface of which were a number of iron nails along with a spread of charcoal fragments. If this spread of material is associated with the burning event that destroyed the annexe feature on the north side of Building F then the pit was backfilled by the time of the fire. Pit [1200] contained pottery of late 13th century date and a number of stone fragments including some that had been worked. One of these was part of a door pillar identical to those surviving in part of the medieval structure of the friary

cloister. This would suggest that the pit was used for waste disposal during the early construction process of the friary cloister. Two post-holes and three stake-holes, of late 13th to 14th century date, were identified adjacent to the pit, but their purpose was not clear.

Several gullies were attributed to this phase. The stepped east edge of feature [125] almost certainly represented the continuation of gully [1020]. This gully, dated by pottery to the 14th century, cut two post-holes [1034 and 1113] of unknown function. One post-hole [1034] was dated by pottery to the 13th to the 14th century. Gullies [1018, 2009, 2011 and 2050] were stratigraphically assigned to Phase 3. These features were substantially truncated such that

interpretation of their function was not possible from the limited evidence available.

PHASE 4: LATER EVIDENCE OF THE DOMINICAN FRIARY, 14TH TO 15TH CENTURY (FIGS. 5 & 6)

Features located in southern excavation area

Two post-holes, one [1471] within Building F and the second [1506] immediately outside, represent additions or alterations to the building. Two shallow cut features, [1458 and 1460], lay adjacent to each other in the southern part of Building F. The two features 0.89 m and 0.82 m across respectively have been

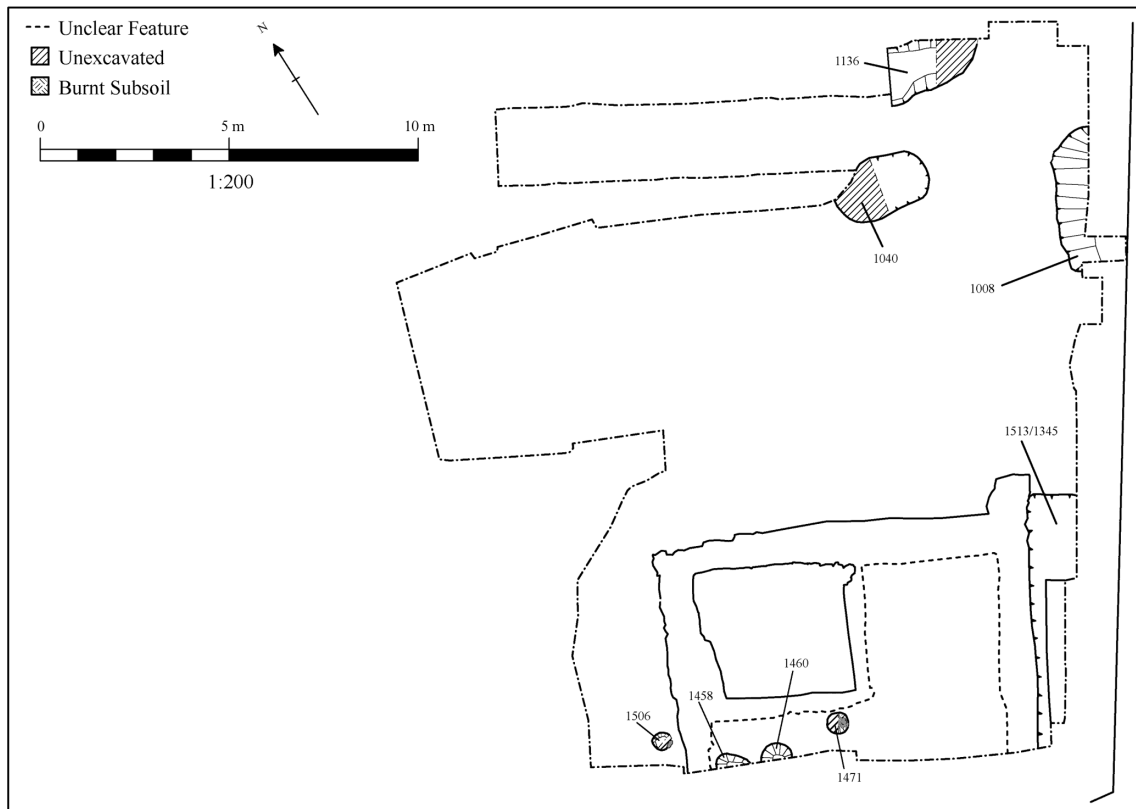


Fig. 5 Phase 4.

interpreted as settings for containers rather than waste pits due to their shallow depth (no more than 0.2m). Two large ditches [1136 and 1513] were within the main area of excavation. Ditch [1513] was very steep sided, measuring 6.6m+ by 1.25 m wide by 0.8 m deep. The ditch ran parallel and cut foundation [1403]. The ditch either terminated or returned to the east at the northern extent. The ditch had silted over time and contained a very dark grey-brown silt (1512) the lower part of which was anaerobic and had preserved organic material. The second ditch [1136] was 2.5 m+ by 1.4 m wide by 1 m deep and was not identified within Trial Trench 1. The primary fill (1158) was a yellow-brown clay and may represent erosion of the sides of the ditch. Both ditches are interpreted as drainage features, possibly storm drains, and were dated to the 15th century. Similar Redwares were recovered from both features, indicating contemporary usage. A gully [1008] located against the eastern limit of excavation was also dated to the 15th century

from pottery evidence. Only a part of the feature extended into the excavation area which has made its interpretation problematic. A large vertically sided oval pit [1040] dated to the 15th century lay to the south of ditch [1136]. The pit contained several sherds of Low Countries Redware. Palaeoenvironmental analysis identified fly puparia within the pit and this led to the interpretation of the feature as a cess pit.

Features within the northern excavation area

A series of shallow linear features [2015, 2017, 2052 and 2066] were identified in the northern excavation area. The most substantial of these features [2015] extended on a north-south alignment for 10 m. Two offshoots from this feature extended at right angles to the east with a third more ephemeral offshoot to the south-east. The single fill of [2015] contained pottery of 14th to 15th century date. Gully [2066] which cut [2015], turned to the west at the

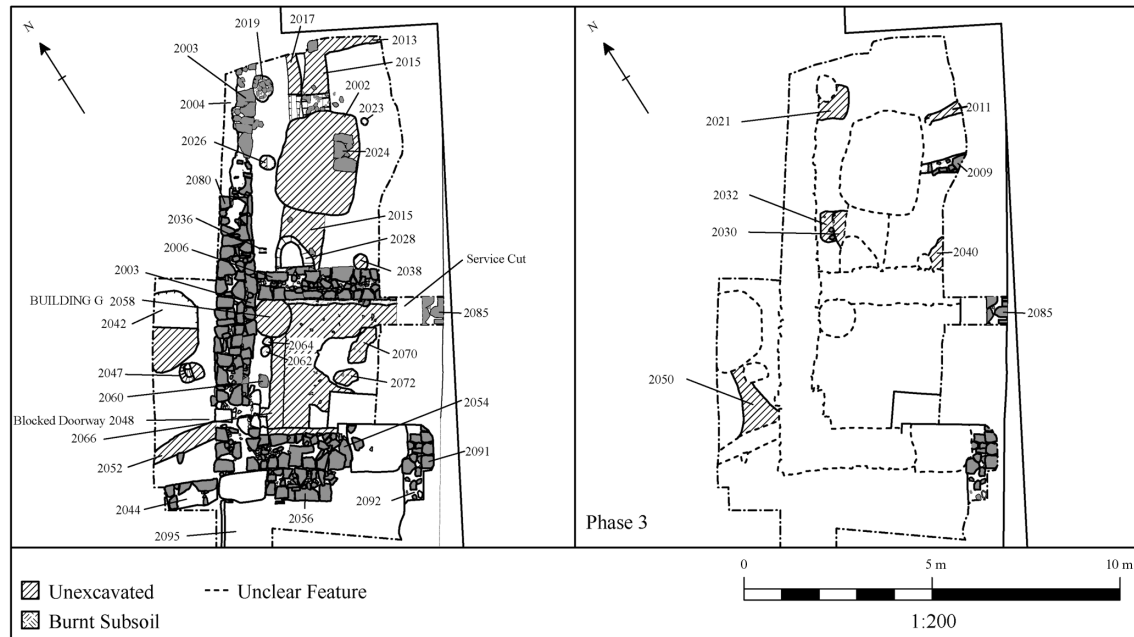


Fig. 6 Northern Area, phase 3 & 4.

southern end beyond which it was identified as gully [2052]. Two pits [2002 and 2028] dating to the 14th to 15th century cut gully [2015].

Building G

Two well constructed irregularly coursed clay bonded stone walls [2003 and 2054] constructed from roughly dressed sandstone blocks formed the west and south sides of a building (Building G). Pottery of late 14th to 15th century date was recovered from the construction cuts for both walls. A 0.65 m wide gap between the two walls represented the only entrance into the building revealed within the excavation area. Two narrow slot trenches excavated up to the fence line of Low Friar Street identified the presence of a north-south stone wall [2085 and 2091]. It is thought that the wall represented the eastern wall of Building G. This would indicate a structure measuring 6 m wide by 11.6m+ long. An east-west partition wall [2006] abutted wall [2003]. Pottery of 15th century date from the construction cut of wall [2006] suggests that it was a slightly later addition. Stone wall [2044 and 2056] was constructed from roughly dressed sandstone blocks and abutted wall [2054] to the south. It appears to represent a slight change of alignment to the structure. Seven post-holes [2019, 2023, 2026, 2038, 2060, 2062 and 2064] were identified within the building. It is not certain if the post-holes were contemporary with the building, however the fact that they respect the wall alignments suggests they probably represent the remains of internal arrangements.

A large pit [2042] located to the west of Building G has been interpreted as a cess pit. The vertically-sided pit measured 2.2 m north-south by 1.2 m+ east-west by 1.2 m+ deep and was dated to the 14th to 15th centuries by pottery. A further small pit [2047] of unknown function was also dated to the 14th to 15th centuries by pottery evidence. A circular pit [2058] in the north-west corner of the southern room of the building is thought to be contemporary with the use of the building, perhaps as a setting for a container.

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The specialist reports are presented below. For details of the wood assemblage, metalwork, animal bone and shell please refer to the site archive held at the Museum of Antiquaries, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY (FIGS. 7–10, TABLES 1–2)

Julie Franklin

Summary

The total pottery assemblage numbers 5666 sherds, weighing 83 kg. Most of this was of 13th and 14th-century date with a lesser quantity of 15th-century material. The amount of post-medieval sherds is negligible and has not been included in this report.

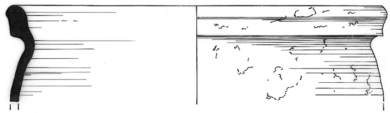
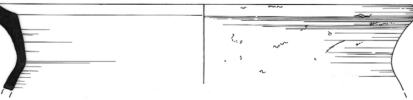
Local Wares

There are two parallel traditions of pottery manufacture in Medieval Newcastle, one using iron rich clay, producing Reduced Greenwares or Oxidised Gritty Wares, and the other using clay with a low iron content producing Buff White Wares. These fabrics were defined by Ellison (1981) in the Castle Ditch sequence. They date back as far as the 12th century with the earliest examples more abundantly gritted than later versions. There are also a handful of sherds of specifically early types, concentrated mainly in Phase 1 deposits.

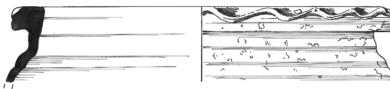
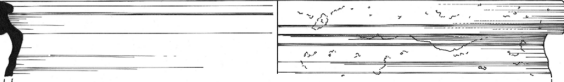
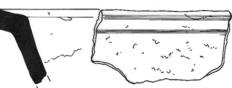
Dog Bank Type Ware (24 vessels)

These were a small group of extremely coarse, relatively soft fired sherds, containing large (up to 2 mm) quartz and red iron oxide inclusions. Typically sherds were pale buff to buff pink, sometimes with reduced grey cores. They are similar to the fabrics found at the 12th century kiln site of Dog Bank (Bown 1988, 33) and if not products of that kiln are from a similar, probably contemporary, industry. All the

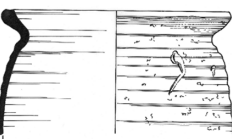
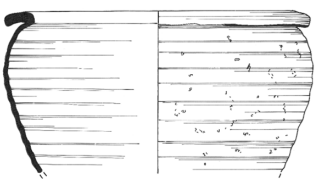
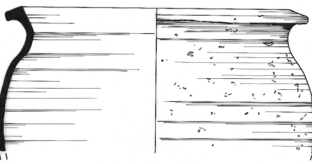
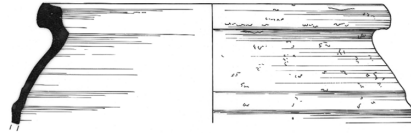
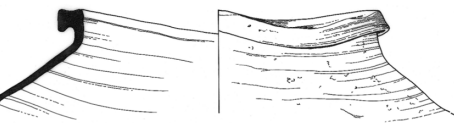
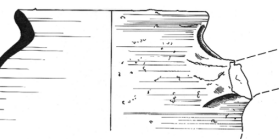
Early Local Wares

- a  Dog Bank Type jar rim. Some sooting on exterior. (1406)
- b  South Curtain Wall Type jar rim. (1217)/(1306). Phase 1

Oxidised Gritty Wares

- c  Jar rim. Pie crust thumbed rim. (1242). Phase 1
- d  Jar rim. Spots of glaze under rim on exterior, traces of exterior soot. (1401)
- e  Dripping pan rim. Patchy internal olive glaze, some exterior sooting. (1021).

Buff White Wares

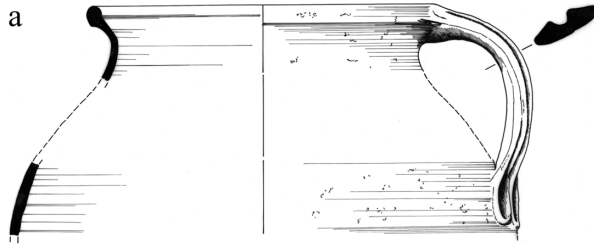
- f  Jar rim. Exterior sooting. (1223). Phase 2/3
- g  Jar rim. Exterior sooting. (1184). Phase 3
- h  Jar rim. Exterior sooting. (1184). Phase 3.
- i  Jar rim. (1004). Phase 3
- j  Jar rim (approximation of rim diameter). Over fired very hard, slightly warped. Some thumbing on rim. (1150). Phase 2
- k  Ladle pipkin rim. External olive glaze. (1302). Phase 2



1:4

Fig. 7 Pottery.

Buff White Wares

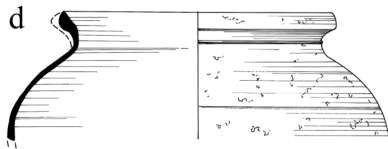
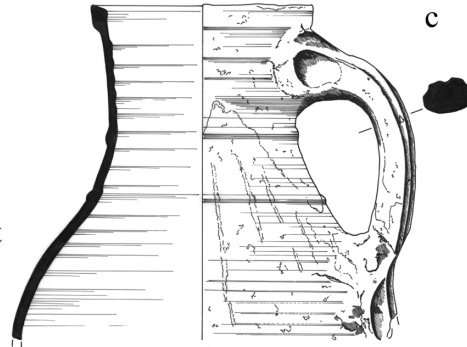


Handled jar rim and handle. Olive glazed exterior. (1330). Phase 2



Pipkin handle. Top glazed olive green. (1209). Phase 2

Jug rim and handle. Hard fired with iron blisters, patchily olive glazed but for handle and towards rim. (1091). Phase 3.



Pipkin. Patchy olive glaze on exterior, less so on interior, some exterior sooting. (1531). Phase 3

Jug rim. Hard fired fabric with iron blisters, exterior olive glaze but for around rim. (1263).

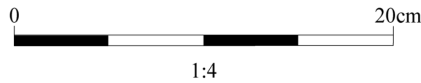
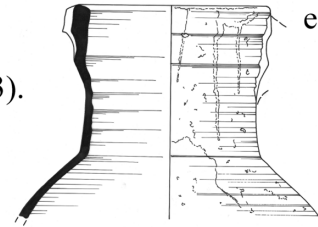


Fig. 8 Pottery.

sherds appear to be from cooking pots with everted or straight edged rims.

South Curtain Wall Type (7 vessels)

These were a handful of rim forms of iron rich gritty slightly micaceous clay, dark grey to

black in colour with buff or pale grey surfaces. They include several rim sherds of the typical everted form recognised at the South Curtain Wall excavations (e.g. Edwards 1966, fig 9:60), though without the characteristic thumbing around the edge. They are possibly contemporary with the construction of the Castle in

the second half of the 12th century. Again, all appeared to be from jars.

Oxidised Gritty Wares (335 vessels)

This is a part oxidised version of early gritty Reduced Greenware fabric (see Ellison 1981, 105, for fabric description). It is common up to the mid 13th century. It forms a significant proportion of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 assemblages only. The handful of sherds from Phase 4 is almost certainly residual. Forms present are mostly jars, generally sooted from use as cooking pots, with rim forms largely the same as the Buff White jars, described below. There is one example of a pie crust rim from a Phase 1 deposit (fig. 7c), the only example from the site. The only other identifiable form was a rim sherd from a dripping dish (fig. 7e). This was also for kitchen use, for catching the dripping under a spit roast.

Buff White Wares (2712 vessels)

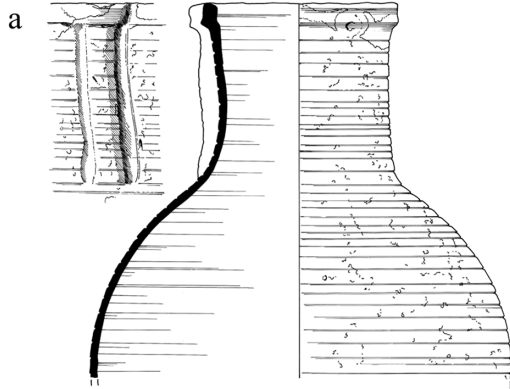
This is the predominant local type between the mid 13th and late 14th centuries (see Ellison 105–6 for fabric description) and was the most common fabric found at Newgate Street, the majority fabric in Phases 2 and 3. Earlier sherds are thin walled and gritty and represent more jars than jugs, the jars again mostly sooted from use as cooking pots. The most common type of cooking pot rim is a simple right angled rectangular rim. This is sometimes thickened, sometimes embellished in other ways, often with a groove along the outside face, or a concave bevel along the inside, possibly to hold a wooden lid (no ceramic lids were found among the assemblage). There are a handful of other kitchen wares, such as pipkins and dripping dishes. The pipkins are of similar form to cooking pots but with a hooked handle. Jug rims are generally upright simple or clubbed rims, sometimes collared. The influence of Scarborough Ware forms and decoration is particularly noticeable on Buff White Wares, more so than on contemporary Reduced Greenware jugs. Handle forms are a good way of illustrating this. Scarborough jugs usually

have a rod handle, often grooved, sometimes twisted. Rod handles first appear in Phase 2 and by Phase 3, 22 out of 35 are rod handles, nine of which are grooved. The influence is also observable in terms of decoration. Buff White jugs are decorated with thumbing around the base or by applied ridges, there is also an example of a dummy handle, all common devices on Scarborough Ware. This influence of the Buff White industry was also observed at Stockbridge (Jenner & Cooper 2001, 171). Both Buff White and Scarborough were at their peak of popularity in the second half of the 13th and first half of the 14th century. Later Buff White sherds are often thicker walled and higher fired. This very hard fabric has been dated at other sites to the 14th century (Fraser et al 1995, 169). It first appears in numbers at Newgate St Phase 3 and by Phase 4 makes up over half the Buff White wares (by weight). Ellison notes some hard fired vessels are distorted, though still serviceable and regards these as kiln seconds rather than wasters. An early hard fired cooking pot from a Newgate St Phase 2 feature (fig. 7g) would seem to fall into that group. It is quite badly distorted around the rim but base sherds from the same vessel are sooted from use. Almost all of these hard fired sherds are from jugs. This can be linked to a decline in locally produced cooking wares during the later Medieval period in general (see Discussion)

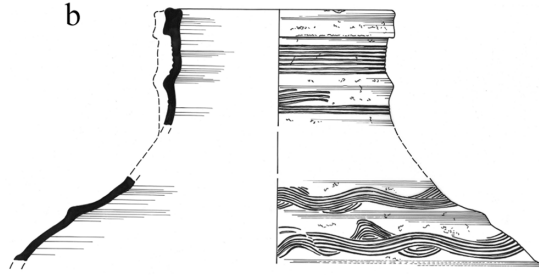
Early Reduced Greenwares (1143 vessels)

The Reduced Greenwares of Newcastle have been divided into six different fabrics (see Ellison 1981, 107–8). The first three of these (RG1–RG3) are all dated between the early 13th and early 14th century and have been grouped together here under the same heading. It is most common in Phase 1 where it makes up the largest fabric group, nearly half the assemblage. By Phase 3 this has dropped to less than a quarter. Later sherds are probably residual. Forms represented are almost entirely strap handled jugs. These are glazed an olive green and decorated by a variety of means. Combing is the most common type (figs. 9b, 9f,

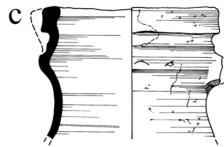
Early Reduced Greenwares



Jug. Olive glazed all over exterior but for edge of rim, horizontal incised grooves, unusually moulded spout. (1323/1324). Phase 2

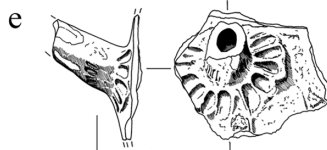
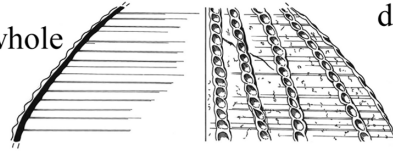


Jug rim and shoulder. Olive glazed on exterior but for towards rim, moulded spout, decorated with combed lines. (1130/1304). Phase 3



Jug rim. Glazed patchy olive green. (1224). Phase 2

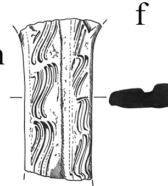
Jug shoulder. Olive glaze over whole exterior, applied thumbed strip decoration. (1212). Phase 3



Jug handle. Top side glazed olive green, combed decoration (1358). Phase 3



Jug tube spout. Olive glazed exterior with iron coloured pips, hole pierced in body of jug and tube spout applied with thumbing. (1434).



Jug handle. Top side glazed olive green, more patchy on underside, combed decoration. (1232). Phase 5



1:4

Fig. 9 Pottery.

9g), or thumbled strips (fig. 9d). There is some evidence of Scarborough influence, such as bearded face masks and rod handles but this is in the minority. Rod handles reach a peak of popularity in Phase 3, but are only 6 out of 24 jug handles. Other unusual forms include a tube spout (fig. 9e), two bridge spouts and a jug decorated with incised horizontal lines with an unusually moulded pulled spout (fig 9a).

Later Reduced Greenware (201 vessels)

This group equates to Ellison's RG4 (1981, 108) and is the dominant local fabric from the 15th to the early 16th century. At Newgate St it first appears in very small numbers in Phase 3 but by Phase 4 is the most common type, particularly considering the numbers of residual sherds present in these later features. All sherds appear to be from olive glazed jugs, though with no large sherds it is possible that some of these jug rims and handles are in fact from cisterns. There is also one possible bowl rim. Handles are almost all strap handles, often decorated with incised grooves. Decoration is rare, but one sherd bears an incised zig-zag.

Imports

Scarborough Type Wares (80 vessels)

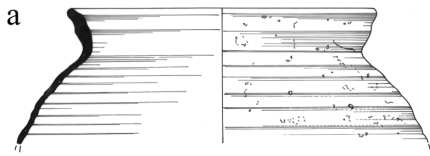
By far the most common Medieval import was Scarborough Ware. The high quality decorative jugs produced in Medieval North Yorkshire were traded all around the North Sea, as far afield as Norway. In Scarborough production is dated from the mid 12th to mid 14th centuries (Farmer 1979) but the wares are most commonly found from the 13th century onwards. Two different fabrics have been identified which are now assumed to be largely contemporary (Farmer & Farmer 1982). However, the whiter Phase 2 fabric is generally found in earlier contexts than the pink Phase 1 fabric. At Stockbridge, for example Fabric II was present in the early 13th century (Periods 2–7), while Fabric I was only found from the mid 13th century (Periods 5–8) (Jenner & Cooper 2001, 171). At Queen St Scarborough

II is present from the 13th century but Fabric I is not found until the early 14th century (Horizon D) (Bown 1988b, 76). Likewise, at Newgate St, though there are relatively few Scarborough sherds from Phase 2, they are all of Fabric II, while Fabric I is only present from Phase 3 onwards. Phase 3 contains the main concentration of the type. The few sherds in later contexts are residual. The most notable of the vessels was a near complete jug decorated with alternate rows of raspberry and wheatear bosses, glazed in green with patches of yellow (fig. 10b) found in a Phase 3 rubbish pit in the centre of the site (1220). This was the typical kind of Fabric I jug found at Stockbridge (Jenner & Cooper 2001, 171) and nearly identical to a jug from Queen St (Bown 1988b, fig 17:48). Also of Fabric I is an orange glazed sherd with an iron coloured pip. Fabric II jugs are decorated most often with ridges and scales, with several examples of dummy handles and applied decoration and face masks. An unusual fragment from Assessment Trench 1 combines yellow glaze with copper coloured ridges and iron coloured scales. Both types I and II are present in approximately equal numbers by weight, but in terms of vessel numbers Fabric II jugs are by far the more common. Also from Yorkshire is a sherd of possible York Glazed Ware, from a Phase 3 pit. It is of a fine off white finely gritted fabric with a glossy mottled green glaze. This was produced to the north of York in the 13th century. Finely decorated jugs were produced but these were not generally exported like the better travelled Scarborough products.

Unidentified Green Glaze (8 vessels)

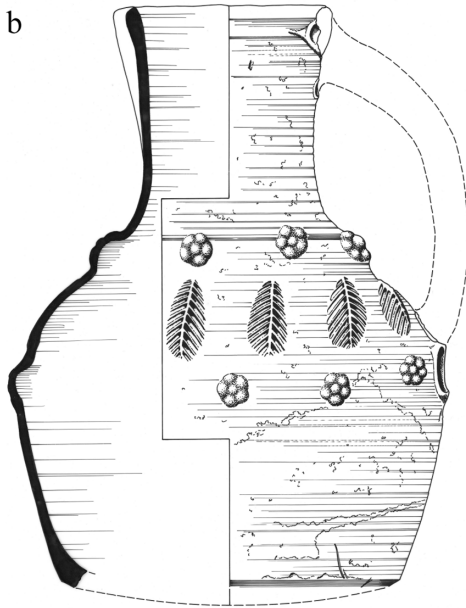
This was a small but distinct group of sherds of possible local manufacture but of considerably better quality than the rest of the local assemblage and are possibly imported from elsewhere in England. The fabric is mid grey, fine sandy with a white external layer under the glaze and generally also a white internal surface. The glaze is a bright mottled green. Some sherds are decorated with wavy combed lines. A wide but fine strap handle and another strap

Other Local Wares



a Jar rim. Fully oxidised orange pink gritty fabric, spots of clear glaze on interior, some sooting on exterior. (1004). Phase 3

Scarborough



b Jug. Type 1 fabric. Decorated with alternate rows of raspberry and wheatear bosses. Glazed mainly green with patches of orange-yellow, glaze petering out towards base. (1184)/(1472)/(1263). Phase 3

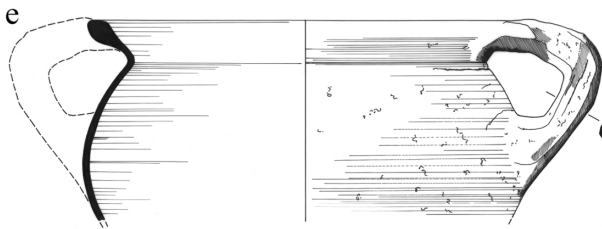


c Face mask. Type II fabric. Face mask from jug, moulded and incised decoration. Glazed green. (1124).

European Imports

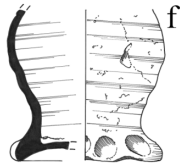


d Saintonge jug rim. Patchy green copper speckled glaze. (1492).



e Unphased Low Countries Redware cooking pot. Spots of exterior orange glaze, much exterior sooting. (1039). Phase 4

Langerwehe stoneware mug/jug base. Glazed patchy grey and brown. (1088). Phase 5



1:4

Fig. 10 Pottery.

handle terminal is the only evidence of form. It is only present in Phase 2 and Phase 3 deposits.

French Imports (3 vessels)

The first sherd was a jug rim from a Saintonge Whiteware jug, glazed with a copper speckled green glaze, from an un-phased context, but associated with apparently 13th century sherds. These vessels are associated with the wine trade from SW France in the 13th and 14th centuries. A handful of sherds were found in the Castle Ditch concentrated in early and mid 14th century contexts (Ellison 1981, 123). It is also found at Stockbridge, of probable mid 13th century date (Jenner & Cooper 2001, 186). The other is also possibly from the Saintonge region. It is a fragment from a bridge spout, from a Phase 3 pit. It is of a similar fabric to the above jug sherd, a fine pale buff fabric, with some mica and occasional rounded quartz inclusions. It is glazed in yellow, changing suddenly to bright green towards the base of the spout. The last sherd is the earliest, though is unprovenanced. It is from a Phase 2 pit, a very large strap handle, of asymmetric section, rounded on one side, more squared on the other. It is of a relatively fine white fabric and glazed in a pale yellowish green, though the glaze is now a little degraded.

Low Countries Grey & Redwares (17 vessels)

Red and Greywares were regularly imported from the Low Countries in the later Medieval and early post-medieval period. Greywares were superseded by redwares during the 14th century, and had been completely supplanted by the 15th century (Hurst et al 1986, 49). In Newcastle, Greywares are much less common. It is assumed because the relatively low quality storage vessels, jugs, bowls etc, did not make such an impact on the import market as the later fine cooking and serving wares of the Redware industry (Bown 1988b, 72; Ellison 1981, 146). At Castle Ditch it is only found residually in later contexts. Likewise at Newgate St of the four vessels represented, one

fragment was found in a Phase 3 context. The rest, found in Assessment Trench 1, associated with 15th century material. Redwares first appear in the early 14th century at Castle Ditch and are the most common import from that date (Ellison 1981, 130). They may be a little later appearing at Newgate St, only found in Phase 4 contexts, but do indeed form the largest group of imports at that time. They represent as many as 13 vessels, mostly cooking pots with typical loop handles and tripod bases. There were also rim sherds from three probable frying pans. The sherds were particularly concentrated in cess pit [1040] and ditch [1345].

Early Rhenish Stoneware (21 vessels)

Stoneware first appears in quantity in Phase 4. There are two sherds from the Phase 3 buried soil (1004). One, a rim sherd from a 16th century Raeren type jug is presumably intrusive, a joining sherd was found in the post-medieval garden soil (1003). The other, of Langerwehe type may be in situ. All the Phase 4 sherds appear to be of Langerwehe type covered in a purplish iron wash or patchy grey and brown glaze, including three frilled bases. These were the most common Rhenish import in the 14th and 15th centuries at Castle Ditch (Ellison 1981, 147).

Discussion of Medieval Pottery

The stratigraphy at Newgate Street has been somewhat blurred by redeposition. Much of the assemblages from Phase 4 and Phase 5 consist of the same 13th- and 14th-century types as those found in Phases 2 and 3. Phase 5 contains several residual sherds and negligible amounts of post-medieval material which is consistent with the area being used as an orchard at the time. There are also several cases of intrusion, with occasional modern sherds found as early as Phase 3. This mixing of layers has meant that few vessels are represented by more than one sherd. There are a few notable exceptions, but generally evidence for vessel form and function is a little

Table 1 Comparison of sherd counts by phase: top right corner = number of sherds; bottom left corner = percentage of total sherds for each phase, by weight.

Fabric / Phase	Ph. 1 pre e. C13	Ph. 2 e-m. C13	Ph. 3 m. C13– 14	Ph. 4 C14–15	Ph. 5 Post-Med	Un- Phased	Assess- ment	Total
Early Local Types	6 5%	9 2%	4		2	3 2%	14 1%	38 1%
Oxidised Gritty	23 15%	93 14%	116 5%	6 2%	19 3%	7 4%	111 5%	375 6%
Buff White Wares	73 33%	409 60%	1681 62%	97 25%	227 44%	57 47%	433 31%	2973 50%
Reduced Greenwares	69 47%	145 21%	576 23%	125 57%	142 32%	40 31%	352 29%	1449 28%
Other Local Wares		1	119 5%	15 2%	55 10%	3 4%	199 14%	392 6%
Scarborough		9 1%	100 4%	2	9 1%	3 7%	43 3%	166 3%
Low Countries Greyware			1				21 1%	22
Low Countries Redware				28 12%			2	30 1%
Early Rhenish Stoneware			1	7 1%	5 2%		3	21
Other Imports		7 3%	12			3 5%	1	23 1%
Post-Medieval & Modern			10 1%	3 1%	23 8%		141 15%	176 4%
Total	171	673	2620	283	482	116	1320	5666

vague. Storage vessels, for example are almost indistinguishable from cooking pots, and cisterns from jugs, when dealing only with small single sherds. It was not possible to define uses of different structures or areas of the site by the vessel forms found within. There were no discernible statistically significant differences between one context and the next.

This may be due to mixing of the site's deposits or the fact that pots were not dumped near to where they were used. The assemblage does confirm the established sequences found at Castle Ditch, Stockbridge, Queen St and other local sites (see Table 2), but the relatively broad phasing and effective truncation in the 15th century means it can do little to refine it.

Table 2 Table of approximate equivalent phasing for 3 large published Newcastle assemblages

Newgate St Phase	Castle Ditch (Ellison 1981) Phase	Stockbridge (Jenner & Cooper 2001) Period	Queen St (Bown 1988b) Horizon
1	1?	1	B
2	1-2	2-4	B
3	3-4	5-12	C-D
4	5-7	13-17	E-F

Phase 1

The Phase 1 assemblage is relatively small and contains only local late 12th and 13th century types, mostly of iron rich reduced or oxidised wares. Vessels are most commonly cooking pots.

Phase 2

Buff White Wares are the predominant type, with Reduced Greenwares declining in numbers. It marks the first appearance of Scarborough Type II. Cooking pots are the most common form. The earliest pipkins are from this phase.

Phase 3

More pottery came from this phase than from all others put together. This is consistent with the greater degree of activity on site associated with the establishment of the friary. The quantity and quality of imports increases, with the first appearance of Scarborough Type I, Saintonge Whiteware and Low Countries Greyware and, less securely, Langerwehe Stoneware. Buff White Wares are still the predominant group, with the first appearance of hard fired jugs. Oxidised and Reduced Greenwares are still in decline. Jugs, for the first time become a more common form than cooking pots. This is also the earliest appearance of dripping dishes. Though many of the

same types were found at other sites, the range of imports was not as wide as at Stockbridge. There was no Rouen Type, Stamford, Mill Green or other English wares.

Phase 4

Despite this period relating to the occupation of the friary, there are relatively few features connected with it and therefore relatively little pottery evidence. Much of this assemblage is residual. Reduced Greenwares are the most common local wares, with a change to a predominance of RG4 fabric. Buff White Ware is in decline and is mainly represented by hard fired jugs. Jugs are by far the most common type of vessel, with many of the cooking pot sherds probably residual. This decline in local cooking pot manufacture has been linked to the rise in imported cooking vessels from the Low Countries (Ellison 1981, 95). Trade across the North Sea becomes far more commonplace in the 15th century, as represented by the suddenly very common Low Countries Redwares and Langerwehe Stonewares. However, the quantities of Low Countries wares are never so great as the numbers of early medieval cooking pots. The decline, which had been going on for some time by the 15th century must in part be due to the increased availability of more practical metal cauldrons and other cooking vessels. These are sturdier and easily repairable but being recyclable are largely invisible in the archaeological record.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL (TABLE 3)

Naomi Crowley

Introduction

The excavation produced 31 kg of building material which was recorded by context, fabric and form. The fabrics have been assigned fabric codes for the purpose of this report and these are described in Table 3. The data has been correlated with the phases identified by the study of the stratigraphic sequence. The range of material present is summarised by type and discussed by phase.

Roman

There are seven fragments of, *tegula*, flat, flanged roof tiles, and three fragments of *imbrex*, curved roof tile, all in Fabric 3. These fragments are all small and abraded and are residual. They indicate Roman activity in the vicinity.

Medieval

Roof Tile

The majority of ceramic building material consists of fragments of flat roof tile in both Fabrics 1 and 2. These two fabrics appear together throughout the site and Fabric 2 may in fact just be a sandier version of Fabric 1. Many of the fragments are identifiable as nib tiles while there are a few fragments from peg tiles. Ten fragments in both Fabrics 1 and 2 occur in Phase 1 in the fill of beam slot [1398]. This pre-friary phase is dated to not later than the 13th century, and it is unlikely that the tile dates to before the mid-late 12th century. In Phase 2, dated to the early-mid 13th century from the pottery, nib tiles in Fabric 1 are used to line a drain. Fragments of roof tile in both Fabrics 1 and 2 occur in small quantities in some of the post-holes and waste pits in this phase. The fragments are generally small and are not in sufficient quantity to indicate that these structures had tiled roofs. It is in Phase 3, the establishment of the friary that the

Table 3 Fabric Descriptions

Fabric Code	Form	Description
1	Peg/Nib/Curved Roof tile	Fine red coloured fabric with moderate quartz inclusions, occasional up to 0.5 mm, occasional dark red coloured iron oxide inclusions. Reduced core on some examples. Fine mould sand.
2	Peg/Nib/Curved Roof tile	Red coloured sandy fabric with frequent quartz, occasionally up to 2 mm. Very occasional lighter clay streak. Occasional red iron oxide inclusion.
3	Tegula/Imbrex	Fine red coloured fabric with occasional red iron oxide inclusion.
4	Brick	Light red coloured, fine sandy, soft fabric with occasional red iron oxide inclusion.
5	Brick	Light reddish-pink coloured, fine sandy, soft fabric with frequent calcium carbonate inclusion giving it a mottled appearance.
6	Floor tile	Reddish-brown coloured, sandy fabric, with frequent evenly sized quartz inclusions and occasional red iron oxide inclusions.
7	Brick	White coloured, fine sandy, soft fabric with occasional red iron oxide inclusion.
8	Pantile	Fine red coloured fabric with moderate quartz inclusions, occasional streak of lighter clay and occasional red iron oxide.

majority of the roof tile fragments come. It is likely that some of the friary buildings would have tiled roofs as opposed to more common thatch. A tile with glaze over a broken edge in Fabric 1 and an overfired fragment in the fill of ditch [1453] and a warped overfired nib tile in Fabric 1 from [1362], the fill around a pillar base, might suggest that tile is being made on site for the friary and that the kiln wasters are being used as rubble fill. Fragments of roof tile continue to appear in pit and ditch fills in Phase 4 and residually in the garden soil (1003) and buried soil horizon (1004) in Phase 5.

Nib Tile

Many of these have a nib attached to the surface of the tile and offset to the right of centre. The protruding nib would have been hooked over the roof rafters and the tiles overlapped in rows. A few fragments have measurable dimensions. In Fabric 1, one fragment has a length of 305 mm, breadths vary from 177–195 mm and thicknesses from 11–13 mm. Fabric 2 tiles tend to be slightly thicker measuring up to 17 mm thick. Several fragments are overfired and may have been used as rubble rather than on a roof. This may suggest that they were manufactured locally.

Peg Tile

There is only one fragment of tile with a peg hole in Fabric 1. Peg tiles have nail holes, usually two, allowing them to be attached to the roof using wooden pegs or iron nails. There are a number of green or brownish-green glazed fragments in Fabrics 1 and 2. This glazed surface would have served not only as a decorative feature but also as weatherproofing, and it is likely that these tiles would have had nail holes. Had these tiles had nibs attached to the surface, the glaze would not have been on the outside of the roof, as the nib tiles would have been placed nib side down. One glazed fragment has glaze on a broken edge and is clearly a kiln waster, perhaps suggesting that they were manufactured locally.

Curved tile

Curved tiles were used along the ridge of roofs in both the nib and peg tile systems. There are nine fragments of curved tile occurring in Phases 2, 3 and 5. Two fragments are glazed.

Brick

The site produced 18 fragments of brick in Fabrics 4, 5 and 7. Medieval bricks vary in size but generally they are thin compared to later bricks, and were a prestigious material, restricted to important buildings, and so their appearance in Phases 3 and 4, the establishment and occupation of the Dominican Friary is not surprising. There are no complete examples from the site but a few have measurable dimensions. Fragments in Fabric 4 measure 86 mm (3½ inches) wide and 41–44 mm (1¾ inches) thick with sunken margins, suggesting a date of mid 13th to 15th century. Fragments in Fabric 5 measure 115 mm (4½ inches) wide, and 55 mm (2¼ inches) thick, suggesting a date of 14th/15th century. Fragments in Fabric 7 measure 95 mm (3¾ inches) to 110 mm (4¼ inches) wide, and 50–62 mm (2–2½ inches) thick, with sunken margins, suggesting a date of 14th/15th century.

Floor Tile

The site produced seven fragments of floor tile in Fabric 6, from Phases 3 and 4, the establishment and occupation of the Dominican Friary. All the fragments have worn surfaces but there is evidence on the edges of several of the tiles for white slip under a yellow glaze. Only one fragment had measurable dimensions of 130 mm wide and 25 mm thick. These tiles probably date to the late 13th/early 14th century. The inclusions in the fabric, and way that they have been made, suggests that they have been made locally rather than imported.

Post-Medieval

There is one fragment of pantile occurring in Phase 5. Apart from this and a modern drain

pipe there is no other evidence of post-medieval building activity.

THE PLANT REMAINS

Kate Roberts

Preservation

The preservation of waterlogged remains on this site appears to have been adversely affected by fluctuating water tables. Whilst there are waterlogged plant remains present in these samples, they tend to be dominated by 'woody' seeds. These are the seeds most commonly found in formerly waterlogged samples, and break down most slowly. Any more delicate plant remains that might have been there are unlikely to have survived. Charred plant remains found in these samples were not common, although there were marginally more in the samples from Phase 2. Where present, they were mainly heavily pitted or fragmented so a good level of identification was often not possible.

Chronological Narrative

Phase 2

Pit fill (1100)

This sample contained a moderate amount of charred plant remains including small amounts of charred cereal grains. Of these, the most common were grains of oat (*Avena* spp.), wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum vulgare* spp.) and oat/grass (*Avena* spp./Poaceae indet.). There were also single grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum/durum*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare sensu lato*). Charred wild plant remains were present, and included small quantities of seeds from plants that could be described as crop weeds. These included grasses (Poaceae indet.), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and vetch/tare/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). The charred seeds of other plants were also present and included some from plants that are found in all disturbed environments, including dock

(*Rumex* spp.) and nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*). Charred seeds of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), which grows in grassy environments were present. Also present was a moderate quantity of seeds from the black mustard plant (cf *Brassica nigra*). It is possible that these were grown for use as mustard, although it is also a common weed and so could easily have been growing in the vicinity. It is possible that these charred plant remains represent the remnants of a cereal crop and its associated weeds, removed before consumption. Waterlogged plant remains were also present. Food remains were represented by blackberry/raspberry seeds (*Rubus fruticosus/idaeus*). Occasional seeds from hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and sedges (*Carex* spp.) were found. These plants are commonly found in damp, nitrogen rich environments.

Drainage gully fill (1150)

Charred remains were relatively rare in this sample. Small quantities of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), wheat/barley, oat/grass and indeterminate cereal were present. Also present were charred seeds from vetch/tare/vetchling, goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.) and nipplewort. These are all common weeds in many different environments, chiefly on disturbed ground, and could have been crop weeds. It is possible that these remains arrived on site as contaminants with the cereal crop, and were charred as waste along with spilled cereal grain. Waterlogged plant remains in this sample included small quantities of seeds from blackberry/raspberry and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). It is possible that these were food remains, although both are commonly found in scrub, and so could have been growing locally. A small quantity of stinging nettle seeds was also present, suggesting a high level of nitrogen in the soil locally.

Post-pit fill (1287)

This sample contained the largest amount of charred plant remains, including a moderate

quantity of charred oat grains and smaller numbers of wheat, barley and indeterminate cereal grains. The only instance of cereal chaff from the site, in the form of three charred culm nodes, was present in this sample. Crop weeds were also common and included charred seeds from plants including clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), stinking chamomile, scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*) and corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*). Plants of disturbed habitats were also present and seeds came from knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), goosefoot, chickweed (*Stellaria* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A moderate quantity of black mustard seeds were found. Seeds from corn spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*) were present, which is mainly found as an arable weed, but is also common on maritime turf. Again it is likely that these remains were the remnants of crop weeds that might have been brought onto sites with the crops they grow amongst. Waterlogged plant remains from this context included seeds from plants with edible fruits such as blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus/idaeus*), raspberry (*Rubus* cf. *idaeus*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). These could have been eaten, or could have been growing in the vicinity. There were also some waterlogged plant remains from plants that grow in wet or damp ground, including seeds from sedges and rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Plants that grow on disturbed ground were also present, including stinging nettle.

Waste pit fill (1528)

The sample from this fill contained only a small amount of charred plant remains consisting of occasional cereal grains, including an oat grain. Waterlogged plant remains in this pit were much richer. Moderate amounts of seeds from plants of grassy habitats, including buttercups (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) and self heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) were found. Much more common were seeds from arable crop weeds, including corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), corn marigold, fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*) and stinking chamomile. Fragments of corn cockle seeds are commonly

found in cess pits, and are a common indicator of bread. The seeds are relatively large, and so difficult to remove from the cereal grain by the usual method of sieving. This means that they frequently end up being ground with the grain and used in bread. Along with cereal bran, it is a common indicator of the disposal of human waste. Again present in this sample were seeds from corn spurrey, which could be an arable weed, but is also found on short maritime turf. There were large quantities of seeds from other plants of disturbed land. These included stinging nettle, oraches (*Atriplex* spp.), knotweed, dock and thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* spp.). Also common in this sample were wetland plants such as rushes, sedges and bristle club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*). Food remains present included fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) and blackberry/raspberry seeds. Fragments of moss were also present.

Layer (1237)

This sample contained only a small amount of charred plant material, including single grains of barley and oats and a single corn marigold seed. Waterlogged plant remains mainly represented a heterogeneous disturbed environment, and included seeds from plants such as knotweed, dock, thistle and goosefoot. Seeds from plants that are often found in a grassy environment were also found, including buttercups. A small quantity of sedge seeds was also present, possibly indicating a damp soil. Seeds from food plants included blackberry/raspberry and elder. Fragments of moss were again present in this sample.

Phase 3

Post-pit fill (1481)

Charred remains were virtually absent in this sample. There was only a single oat grain. Waterlogged plant remains included seeds from stinging nettle, dandelion (*Taraxacum* cf. *officinale*) and buttercup. There were also a large quantity of blackberry/raspberry seeds and a moderate quantity of fig seeds (*Ficus*

carica). A small quantity of sedge seeds was also present. This is very typical of assemblages that are found in cesspits. Small fruit seeds, which are eaten with the fruit are typically found in faecal matter.

Stone drain fills (1552 and 1553)

The charred plant remains in this sample were relatively scarce. A small quantity of oats and barley were present, together with seeds from possible arable weeds such as scentless mayweed and grasses. Charred sedge seeds were also present, as were seeds from plants that are common on disturbed ground. Waterlogged plant remains included seeds from the fruits blackberry/raspberry and wild strawberry. Wetland plant seeds were also common and came from sedges and common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*). Water flea eggs were present in this sample in small quantities. These live in stagnant water. Other plant remains were also present, especially stinging nettle, which is indicative of high nitrogen levels in the soil. Unsurprisingly, for a ditch fill, the presence of water plants and water fleas could suggest that this context was filled with stagnant water.

Post-hole fill (1557)

This sample contained virtually no plant remains other than the waterlogged seeds of buttercups and plants that grow on disturbed ground including dock and stinging nettle. These are also common on ground with high nitrogen levels and on disturbed, open and waste ground.

Phase 4

Cesspit fill (1039)

This sample only contained waterlogged plant remains. These included a large quantity of stinging nettle seeds and smaller quantities of seeds from rushes, buttercups and white horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*). Also present in

this sample were waterlogged fly puparia. These are commonly found in cess pits.

Drainage ditch fills (1153 and 1162)

There were small quantities of charred plant remains in these samples. They were mainly charred oats and wheat/barley grains and grass seeds. Waterlogged plant remains were more abundant and included a large quantity of seeds from stinging nettle, and small amounts from elder, hemlock and thistle. These are all indicators of high nitrogen levels in the soil. Elderberries could also have been eaten. Corn cockle seeds were also present. Small quantities of sedge and rush seeds were present as well as a large quantity of water flea eggs, suggesting the presence of standing water.

Ditch fill (1512)

Single charred grains from an indeterminate cereal and oats were the only charred plant remains present in this sample. Waterlogged remains were quite rich and included a large quantity of hemlock seeds, which are indicative of a high nitrogen level in the soil. Seeds from other nitrogen indicators were also present including a large quantity of stinging nettle seeds. A small quantity of blackberry/raspberry seeds and elder seeds, both of which are edible were also present, as were a number of sedge seeds.

Discussion of the Plant Remains

Local environment

Evidence for the local environment at this site is based on the waterlogged plant assemblage. It is likely that this environment may have been one of open disturbed land, typical of a settlement site. It is likely that the soil was relatively high in nitrogen, which is an indicator of the disposal of organic material, probably including human waste. This is based on the presence of remains from plants such as stinging nettle, dock and hemlock. Seeds from these plants

were particularly common in Phases 3 and 4. There is no evidence for any significant ground cover other than brambles and elder, which were not overly dominant in these samples. These could easily have arrived on site if people were picking them elsewhere as food. These small quantities should not be used as evidence for their growing in the immediate vicinity. There is little change in this impression over the various phases of the site. Some of the samples also provide evidence for damp ground or standing water. Unsurprisingly this evidence came from ditch fills [1553 and 1153], Phase 2 and 4 contexts respectively, where standing water might have been expected, at least seasonally. Pit fill [1528] also contained a variety of wetland plants, with seeds from different sedge family plants, as well as lesser spearwort and rushes. It is possible that these could have been growing locally. However sedges and rushes could have been used as flooring and then disposed of in pits, and so they could equally easily have been brought onto site for this purpose.

Waste disposal

Typical indicators of disposal of human waste on settlement sites of this date can include remains of fruit and other foods and insect remains. Generally in order for these kinds of remains to be preserved, good waterlogging or mineralisation is required. In Phase 2 of the site, plant remains preserved by waterlogging were relatively scarce but this could be due to poor waterlogged preservation and the resultant decomposition of plant remains. Waterlogged food remains were more common in the samples from Phase 3, and included larger quantities of blackberry/raspberry seeds and occasional fig seeds. None of these came from contexts typically associated with waste disposal, and included contexts like post holes. It is possible that the presence of these seeds represents the general dispersal of food waste across the site. The Phase 4 context identified as a cess pit fill [1039], while not containing food remains, did contain waterlogged fly puparia which are a common find in cess pits,

and are commonly associated with faeces and rotting matter (Greig 1982). The other seeds in that fill included seeds from stinging nettle, which is likely to indicate a high nitrogen level in the soil, and therefore possible disposal of human waste in the vicinity. Amongst the waterlogged plant remains from different phases of the site there were also fragments of corn cockle. This is commonly found in soils where human waste had been deposited (Hall et al 1983). It is a very common crop weed, which is often difficult to remove in cereal processing due to its large size and so is ground with the grain and turned into bread and then found along with other indigestible items such as cereal bran. This was found in a Phase 2 waste pit [1528] and a Phase 4 drainage ditch [1153] suggesting the possible disposal of human waste, or other rotting matter in both phases.

Diet

Cereal remains were rare in the samples from this site. Grains were generally very heavily charred and often impossible to completely identify. Fragmentation and pitting were common for all of these charred cereal remains. A distinct difference between Phase 2 and Phases 3 and 4 was apparent. In Phase 2 charred cereal remains were not common but were present in moderate quantities. In the later phases they became much rarer. It is possible that this is a result of sampling, rather than actual absence, as it is unlikely that cereals were not consumed on a medieval monastic site. The cereal remains in Phase 2 were dominated by oat grains. Also present were barley grains and occasional wheat grains. It is believed that oats were mainly fed to animals and so it is possible that the oats found on this site were grown for this purpose. It was however, also eaten by poorer people or people who lived in harsher cultivation conditions, e.g. in Scotland (Greig 1991). The occasional wheat and barley grains found in these samples would have been made into bread, porridges, cakes and pottages by medieval consumers (Wilson 1991). The dominance of oats on the medieval site was similar

to the pattern found at Newcastle Quayside (Huntley 1989). Similarly present at Newcastle Quayside were small quantities of barley grain. There was no chaff present in these samples, other than three culm nodes in post-pit fill (1287). It is possible that the temperatures of the charring events that created these assemblages were quite high. Chaff is relatively fragile and is destroyed more quickly than cereal grain in fires of a high temperature. However it is also likely that the chaff was never there in the first place. It is probable that the cereal grains were brought onto this site ready cleaned for use. This is common on urban sites. Chaff was similarly absent at Newcastle Quayside (Huntley 1989) where it was also postulated that this could indicate that cereals were brought onto site as cleaned crops. Many of the charred weed seeds in these samples are typical of plants that grow as arable crop weeds. These included stinking chamomile and corn marigold. It is possible that these seeds had been amongst the cereal grains and removed before it was consumed and charred as waste. It is equally possible that they represent the charring of accidental spillages, which would explain the presence of some cereal grains. Sandy soils are possibly indicated by the presence of seeds such as sheep's sorrel, corn spurrey and corn marigold. There were also occasional seeds from plants like stinking chamomile, which is likely to indicate heavy clay soils. As there were only occasional seeds from any of these plants, it would be unwise to use them as conclusive evidence in describing the kinds of soils in which the crops were being grown.

Fruit remains are often very common in samples from medieval sites. The relative rarity at this site may be due to poor preservation and the deterioration of more delicate seeds. Blackberry/raspberry seeds were equally common in Phases 2 and 3, but less important in Phase 4. Small quantities of seeds from elder berries were present in all phases on this site. Hazelnut shell fragments were found in Phases 2 and 3. Although only a small amount of waterlogged food remains have survived, there was a noticeable increase in variety between

the samples from Phase 2 and Phase 3. The addition of seeds from figs and pips from grapes and wild strawberry seeds were the most notable. The grape seed came from cobbled area (345), which was only examined during assessment. A comparison to the waterlogged food remains found at nearby Newcastle Quayside (Huntley 1989) and New Quay, Berwick (Huntley 1999) showed that these fruit remains were typical in the north-east at that time. These two sites, whilst producing much richer archaeobotanical assemblages, also had the fruit remains found on this site.

Black mustard seeds were found in various contexts from Phase 2. While it grows wild as a weed, it is possible that the plant might have been grown for consumption and use as a spice. This was a common use in the medieval period (Wilson 1991).

WOODEN BOWLS (FIG. 11)

Anne Crone

Context (1411)

Of the nine fragments of a wooden bowl recovered from this context, four join together to give a relatively complete profile of the bowl. There are five rim fragments present; three join to form approximately three-eighths of the original circumference of the rim and the other two also join together to form a short, separate length. One of the larger fragments is from the base of the bowl and fits together with the three conjoined rim fragments. The overall profile displayed by these fragments is that of a shallow, flat-based bowl with gently sloping walls. There has been some distortion of the fragments during burial but it is possible to estimate the original diameter of the bowl as between 200 and 210 mm at the rim, narrowing to a base approximately 100 mm in diameter. The bowl would have stood approximately 50 mm high. The wall of the bowl is 5 mm thick tapering to a simple rounded rim 3 mm wide. At the angle between the wall and the base the bowl becomes 8 mm

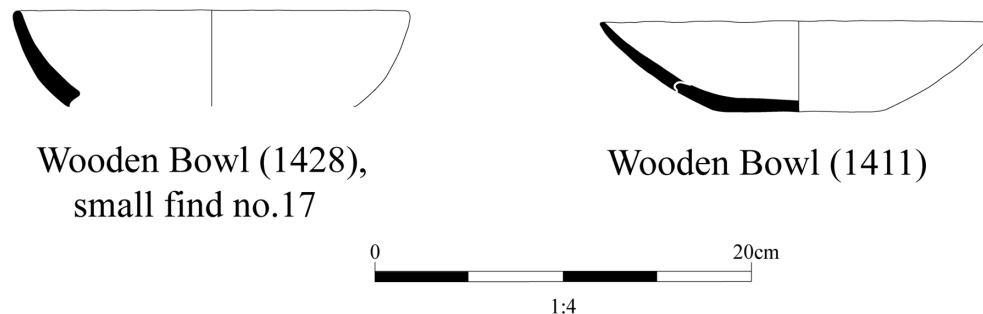


Fig. 11 Wooden bowls

thick tapering to 6 mm towards the centre of the base.

Although turning marks are not visible on either the internal or external faces of the bowl, it was in all likelihood fashioned on a lathe, the regular profile and thinness of the walls indicating as much. A shallow groove is just visible at the junction between the wall and base in the interior of the bowl, probably the result of lathe-turning. The bowl has been fashioned from a half-log of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in such a way that the grain of the wood runs parallel with the rim of the bowl. This indicates that the bowl was face-turned, the grain of the wood lying perpendicular to the axis of rotation on the lathe (Morris 2000, 2122). The absence of turning marks is probably due to wear. The surfaces of the bowl are undecorated. Much of the internal surface of this bowl is charred; this must have happened before breakage because none of the broken edges are charred.

Context (1428) – Small Find 17

Of the four fragments of wooden bowl recovered from this context, three are rim fragments which join together. There has been little visible distortion of the fragments during burial. The diameter of the bowl at the rim would have been 210 mm and it would have stood at least 55 mm high. In profile this bowl would have had steeper walls than that from Context 1411 and it was probably deeper,

although we have no evidence for the base. The walls of the bowl are 9 mm thick tapering to a simple round rim 5 mm thick. Like the bowl from Context 1411, SF17 was also fashioned from a half-log of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in such a way that the grain of the wood runs parallel with the rim of the bowl. Again turning marks do not survive on either inner or outer surface both of which are undecorated. The outer surface is covered in encrustations but this may have happened during burial.

THE QUERNS

David Heslop

Summary

The site produced a single disc-shaped quern fragment (1428) and two pieces of lightly worn grindstone (1262 and 1364), almost certainly from one stone. The quern fragment was represented by less than 5% of a flat lava quern of large diameter, probably in excess of 620 mm, with flat top and rounded sides. There is no trace of eye, handles or any other formal features. There is no sign of any wear on the grinding face, which is covered with the same deep circular tool marks as the rest of the outer surface, suggesting that the quern is a partly-finished rough-out. The two fragments of grindstone are of the same lithology, same proportions and bear the same degree of wear

on the outer surface, suggesting that although they don't join, and have different patterns of burning and breakage, they are from the same stone. Less than 20% in total, the grindstone had one flat face with a smooth finish and one still covered with coarse tool-marks consisting of linear grooves, all running in the same direction. The outer edge has been worn smooth, with a maximum concavity of about 1 mm. Diameter in the region of 560 mm, thickness 89 mm. Coarse grained sandstone of medium brown colour, slightly micaceous, no larger inclusions or fossil pits.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The development area lies within the circuit of the medieval town wall and 180 m to the south of St Andrew's Church, which is known to have been in existence by the 12th century (Salter 1997, 57). The spatial arrangement of 12th and 13th century Newcastle, before the construction of the town wall, is not at all well understood. The construction of the town wall commenced, on the northern side of the town, in the second half of the 13th century, after the foundation of the Dominican Friary, and was largely complete by the mid 14th century (Nolan 1989, 29). The line of the town wall places the Newgate Street development site at the western periphery of the upper town in the later medieval period. The wall bisects a number of pre-existing boundaries and as such would appear to have been constructed to enclose the minimal area practicable. The wall runs very close to the north-west corner of St. Andrew's Church, almost certainly covering over part of the churchyard. A close, which formed part of the friary, lay beyond the town wall indicating that the friary may also have possessed one of the boundaries bisected by the wall. Eric Cambridge has proposed a multipolar development for a number of the early towns of the north, including Newcastle (Cambridge, Gates and Williams 2001, 79–86). The available evidence for a focus centred on St Andrew's Church would certainly fit within such a hypothesis and it can be speculated that

the early activity on the Newgate Street site formed elements associated with such a focus.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence for the local environment suggests one of open disturbed land, typical of a settlement site. It is likely that the soil was relatively high in nitrogen, which is an indicator of the disposal of organic material, probably including human waste.

Phase 1

Buildings A and B were timber structures of not insubstantial scale aligned with Low Friar Street, indicating that the street was present from the earliest period of identified occupation. Building A comprised two post-pits and an external sill beam. Providing the building extended to the street front a second line of post-pits would be expected indicating an aisled style of construction. No indication of post-pits was seen associated with Building B, indicating that the sill beams that lay within its construction slots may have borne the full weight of the building. The date at which occupation commenced on the site is difficult to determine, the second structure in the northern part of the site, Building C, can be dated to the early 13th century from pottery evidence, which may be indicative of a later 12th century date for the preceding structure Building A. This interpretation is tentative, though the presence of residual 12th century pottery within clearly later contexts would support some 12th century activity on site or its immediate vicinity.

Phase 2

During Phase 2 Building A was replaced by Building C, a structure represented by post-pits of some substance, suggestive of a solidly constructed building. The interpretation that indicates the replacement of Buildings B and C with post-pad structures, Buildings D and E, is by the nature of the evidence somewhat speculative, as clearly not all of the post-pads have survived. Such a building is difficult to identify by archaeological means, but represents a

known medieval building type. The evidence for these structures, although limited, is consistent with such an interpretation. The alignment of the post-pads of Building D follows that of the post-pits of Building C, suggesting the direct replacement of the earlier structure, and one of the pads overlying a post pit of Building C, demonstrates the sequence. Building E displays a similar alignment with Building B and the northernmost surviving post-pad directly overlies the beam-slot forming the northern wall of the building. These buildings represent the continuation of the structural sequence seen in Phase 1 with the construction of timber structures of a different constructional technique but with a similar spatial arrangement and also oriented onto Low Friar Street. Too little of these structures survive to give a clear indication of their size. Stone spreads (1155 and 1024) appear to mark the presence of an entrance into the site between the two buildings. The pottery assemblages from both Phase 1 and Phase 2 comprise cooking pots and are consistent with at least a partially domestic function for the buildings.

The parallel timber wall and ditch identified within Trial Trench 3 were believed to be contemporary. The presence of pottery of 13th century date within the fills of both features further supports this interpretation. As the features were physically overlaid by layers dated to the mid 13th century an early 13th century date seems likely. The association of the ditch and timber wall is significant in that the ditch is likely to be external and would therefore orient the boundary feature to face south into the area later occupied by the friary. The implication from this is that the land to the north was occupied during Phase 2 and may have been a property of some status given the effort and expense lavished on the demarcation of its boundary.

Phase 3

The establishment of the Dominican Friary on the site in AD 1239 led to changes in the spatial orientation of the structures on the site. The pre-friary arrangement of buildings aligned

with the frontage of Low Friar Street with pits to the rear was superseded by the construction of a large building (Building F) occupying the southern part of the site. An outline of the friary precinct has been proposed, based on documentation from post dissolution purchases by the Mayor and Burgesses (Fraser and Harbottle. 1987, 24). The watching brief identified the continuation of the stone boundary wall seen in Trial Trench 3 along the predicted line of the northern boundary, confirming its line in that area. The 13th to 14th century construction date for the wall fits this interpretation. The walls that later formed the east side of Building G could well be a section of the eastern precinct wall, the wider foundation cut compared to the other walls supports this. The extreme north-east corner of the precinct would appear to have been stepped back from the junction with Newgate Street as this small area were not detailed in the purchases of the Mayor and Burgesses and may well have always lain beyond the friar's precinct. This interpretation of the boundary would place it immediately to the north of Building G. The location of 'the gatehouse in the kings highway', known from documentary evidence (Fraser and Harbottle. 1987, 24), and which must have surely led out onto Newgate Street, remains ambiguous.

The cloister area and friars church lies in the centre of the area of the friar's land contained within the town walls. This suggests that the area of the close beyond the wall was always peripheral to the main site. The friar's church lay on the northern side of the cloister with the chapter house to the immediate east of the cloister (Fraser and Harbottle. 1987, 26). A cemetery site is known from excavation to lie to the north of the friar's church in the area now occupied by the Jacobin's Chare development (Upson 1997, 12). The present excavation has demonstrated that the western limit of this cemetery lay beyond the investigation area as no further burials were encountered. It is thought the construction of the friary structures would have emanated from the centre, with the construction of the church and cloister area, and extended out towards the

boundary of the precinct. The evidence from the excavation site would support this as little activity was present that could be dated with any confidence to the early decades of the friar's occupation. The construction activity in the 14th century fits within a trend towards an increase in accommodation space and increased provision of private accommodation noted in mendicant architecture at that time (Foreman 1996, 248–249)

Building F comprised a series of very substantial clay and stone foundations. No trace of the walls, carried by the foundations, were identified *in situ*, however, the structural solidity of the foundations are more likely to indicate a stone rather than a timber superstructure. The ground plan of the building as exposed represented two rooms, a single square room in the north-west corner, occupying 14 m square, and a much larger L-shaped room occupying the remaining 50 m square of the exposed internal area of the building. Had the building extended to the line of Low Friar Street the building would have extended a further 6 m. The southern boundary is less certain, however, if Dispensary Lane is a contemporary thoroughfare then the full extent of the building to the south is unlikely to exceed another 2.5 m. These two assumptions indicate a building 16 m by 8 m, which represents the architectural perfect rectangle. It is tempting to see this as supporting the estimation for the total building size. The four post-holes identified adjacent to the external walls clearly represented more than settings for scaffolding associated with the construction of the building. One possible interpretation is that they were supports for a timber upper floor. The scale of the foundations are also sufficient to indicate a significant load bearing capacity compatible with the presence of an upper storey.

There is evidence for the presence of an annexe on the north side of Building F constructed on a laid clay foundation with a stone rubble surface. A further well-laid stone surface could represent a threshold marking a possible entrance. The extension of the eastern foundation wall of Building F for a short

distance to the north would appear to demonstrate continuity between the two structures as would the limited pottery evidence for the date of the annexe.

Sufficient roof tile was recovered from Phase 3 contexts to indicate that it represented the roofing material for at least some of the friary buildings. Analysis of the material would indicate that its presence within the fill around a pillar base, might suggest that tile was being made locally and that the kiln wasters were used as rubble fill.

The pottery assemblage from Phase 3 is greater than all other phases together, reflecting a greater degree of activity within the excavation area at that time. The quantity of imports increased during this phase but there is little to indicate a higher status. This may well be consistent with the nature of a mendicant order where moveable possessions tend towards the functional rather than the decorative.

Phase 4

During Phase 4 construction activity moved further to the north into the area of the extension to the main excavation north of Low Friar Lane. Building G was constructed in this area, in the north-east corner of the precinct, in the late 14th to 15th century. This building was altered during the 15th century when partition wall was constructed. Building G lay close to the precinct boundary with Newgate Street and was separated from the main area of excavation by Low Friar Lane. Assuming that the gatehouse, previously mentioned, lay either directly onto Newgate Street or was at Low Friar Lane then Building G lay adjacent to it. This may indicate a possible function for the structure as part of the gate complex or as the guesthouse of the friary, though no artefactual or structural evidence was recovered to support a clear interpretation.

Within the main area of excavation there is little in the way of structural activity during Phase 4; Building F had fallen out of use by the 15th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was funded by Land Securities Limited. Thanks are due to David Heslop of Newcastle City Council who monitored the excavation. Supervision of the archaeological fieldwork was carried out by Graeme Young, Andrew Durkin and Philip Wood. Thanks go to all those who worked hard work on site in often distinctly cold conditions! Specialist input was received from Mandy Clydesdale (metalwork), Murray Cooke (animal bone), Anne Crone (wood), Naomi Crowley (ceramic building material), Julie Franklin (medieval pottery), David Heslop (stone) and Kate Roberts (plant remains). The drawings were prepared by Alan Braby. Graeme Young and Jonathan Moller prepared the illustrations. The report and publication text was edited by Melissa Melikian.

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